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Welcome

Hello! I'm delighted to introduce myself as the new editor of *Period Homes & Interiors*. I'm passionate about decorating and design, particularly when it comes to older properties. While contemporary homes certainly have their place, for me it's period houses every time for all the quirks, irregularities and imperfections they offer and the sense of achievement you feel when a tired old interior is brought up to date for our modern lifestyles. It will be my mission to arm you with **ideas and inspiration for renovating and decorating your home**, so I'd like to hear from you about what you love best about this magazine and what you'd like to see more of (you can find my email address in the 'Get in Touch' section below).

This issue we've taken our inspiration from the **Great British coastline** to bring you four beautiful, very different **homes beside the sea**. You'll find plenty of other coastal influences, too, from cool blue decorating schemes to nautical-inspired buys, along with ideas to **update your bedroom** and a useful buyers' guide to that household workhorse: the washing machine.

Plus we're delighted to have teamed up with the **Antiques for Everyone show**, taking place at Birmingham's NEC from 23-26 July 2015, to offer two-for-the-price-of-one ticket entry plus free parking – a saving of £15. The show will bring together around 230 exhibitors and is an opportunity to shop for one-off pieces of furniture, 20th-century art, jewellery, silver, ceramics and glass. To take up this offer and for show opening times, visit **www.antiquesforeveryone.co.uk/phandi**.

ZOE BALDING, **EDITOR**

This month I love: FflorALS

For stockists turn to page 112



1. *My two favourite decorating themes* – flowers and birds – combined beautifully on this **CUSHION**, £53.75, from Voyage Maison. **2.** *Perfect for carrying ice-cold glasses of Pimm's out to the garden.* Tetbury round **TRAY** by Bluebellgray, 49cm (dia), £44, Occa-Home. **3.** Penryn **ARMCHAIR** in Sanderson semi-woven print fabric, £1,300, John Lewis – *like sitting down in a summer meadow.* **4.** This Mackenzie-Childs Butterfly Garden enamel **TEA KETTLE**, £100, from Amara, will look lovely on display in my kitchen – *I love the flower-shaped knob on the lid.*

EDITOR'S PHOTOGRAPH KRYSTYNA PERCZ

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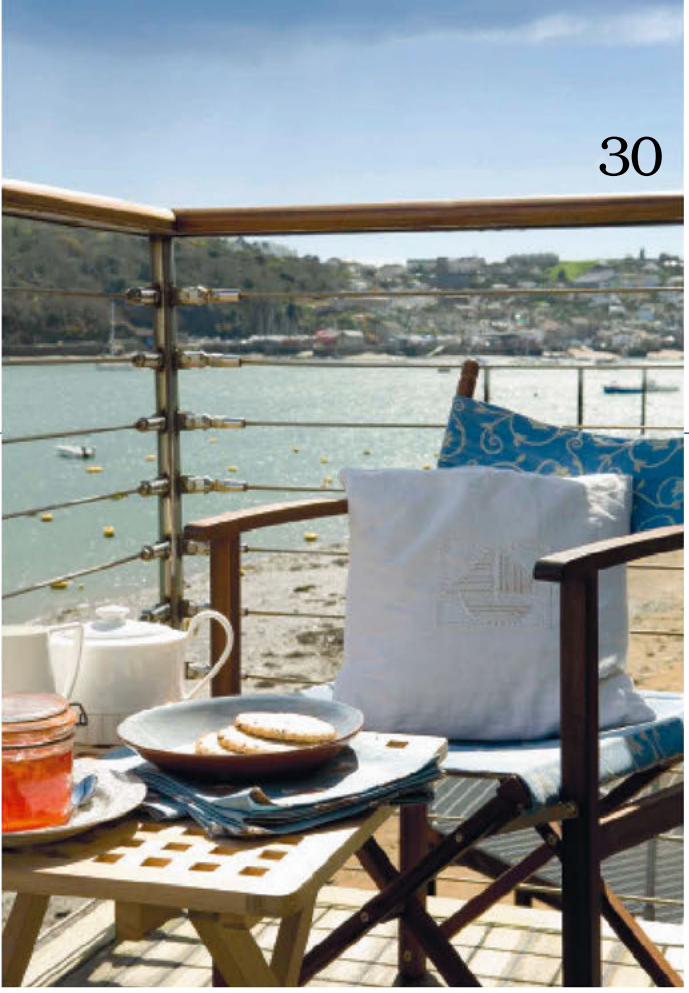
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Miss Behaving armchair upholstered in Sanderson Sail Away fabric, £1,399, Sofa Workshop.

For stockists turn to page 112

Favourite *find*

If you're not fortunate enough to actually live by the seaside we think that sitting down and relaxing in this MISS BEHAVING ARMCHAIR *from Sofa Workshop is the next best thing – upholstered in a whimsical nautical fabric, it transports us to breezy days at the beach*

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IN THE NEWS

Our round-up of design buys, favourite home products and new-season trends



Perfect pitch

Sleeping under canvas takes on a whole new level of style with this beautiful floral tent by FieldCandy for Liberty. Crafted from responsibly sourced materials, the Liberty Flowers tent collection is 100% waterproof and UV fade-resistant, with a multi-purpose lobby and a breathable inner tent. It costs £595, sleeps up to three people and comes in three fabulous floral designs, including Wiltshire (pictured). www.liberty.co.uk.



Pretty in pink

Stripes and florals make a pretty pairing that's perfect for period homes. Bed in Norfolk Stripe Peony, quilt in Ticking Peony 01; bedcover in Arran Peony; curtains in Devon Stripe Pink, from £24.50 per m; wallpaper in Kew Baltic Pink, £49.50 per roll; all Ian Mankin. 020 7722 0997, www.ianmankin.co.uk.

New-look Aga website

Aga fans will now find it easier than ever before to shop for all those must-have accessories with the launch of the new-look, easy-to-navigate Aga Cookshop website. We've got our eye on this cute replica Rose Aga storage tin, £10. Shop online at www.agacookshop.co.uk.



IT'S A DOG'S LIFE

Georgeous home buys inspired by your canine friend

For stockists turn to page 112









1. Under cover Wire Haired Dachshund Aga top, £17, Emily Bond. **2. And so to bed** Cecil dog bed in Dachshund fabric by Fenella Smith, available in two sizes, from £230, 75cm (w), Sofa.com. **3. Pooch on a plate** Poochies dessert plates, come as a set of four, £22.50, Magpie. **4. Creature comfort** Labrador cushion with feather pad, £29.95, Adventino. **5. Hot dog** Sausage dog double oven glove, £9, M&Co.

SHADES OF SUMMER

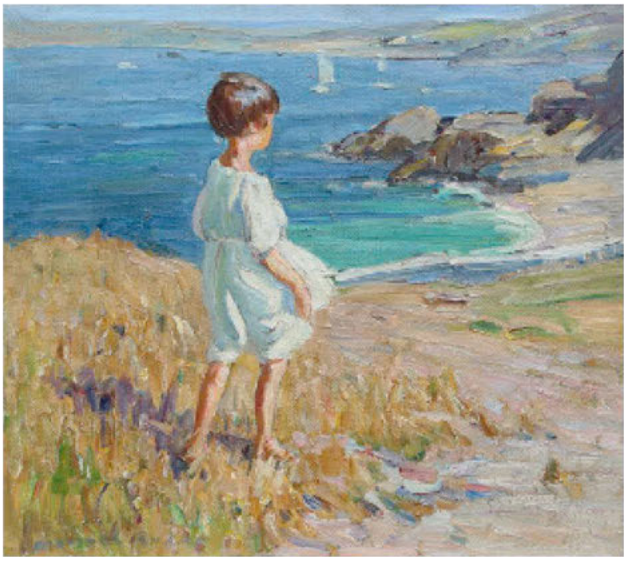
Add a bright splash of colour to give your kitchen an instant update for summer with these beautiful textiles from the Meadow Bloom, Meadow Terrace and Meadow Flower collections by Lilly Loray. Tea towels, £11.99; double oven mitts, £16.50; single oven gloves, £14; pot holders, £12 each. www.lillyloray.co.uk.



Shutterly fabulous

These cafe-style shutters from California Shutters are a perfect choice for bathrooms as they cover only the lower section of your window, offering privacy without losing light. Available in 10 neutral house colours or custom-coloured to your specification, they are made from poplar and cost from £177m² from the DIY range. Visit www.californiashutters.co.uk to see the full range and for step-by-step measuring and installation guides.





The Olympia International Art & Antiques Fair is taking place in London from 18-28 June, offering more than 130 exhibitors (such as paintings by Haynes Fine Art of Broadway, pictured), plus talks, exhibitions and tours. Tickets costs from £15. www.olympia-art-antiques.com.

UNIQUE FINDS

If you love filling your home with artisan finds, you no longer have to wait for your next local craft fair. Thanks to Home of Artisans (www.homeofartisans.com), beautiful handcrafted ceramics, textiles, glassware and wall art are now available at the click of your mouse. Shop online for one-off or limited-edition pieces and you'll be supporting the work of international makers and their cultures, and helping to uphold traditional craft methods.

3 OF THE BEST BEACH BUYS

The seaside is beckoning, so don't set off without these key buys

For stockists turn to page 112



Beach Huts beach bag, large enough for all your summer essentials, also comes in a larger size, £15, John Lewis.



TravelQ 285X gas barbecue with dual burners, windproof vents and useful folding trolley, £340, Napoleon Grills.



Let any visitors know where you are with this 'At The Beach' wooden hanging sign, 18 (h) x 23cm (w), £11, Garden Trading.

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For stockists turn to page 112

Hand-painted porcelain Parrot handles, ideal for cupboards and drawers, 7 (h) x 6 (w) x 4.5cm (d), £20 for a pair, Graham & Green.



Puffin print by Alice Peto, an artist and illustrator working entirely by hand, 42.5 (h) x 30cm (w), £120 for the print only, English Abode.



Nestegg cushion digitally printed onto calico with a stripe reverse, 45.75 (w) x 45.75cm (d), £47.50, Sarah Campbell Designs.

Smile at the *birdie*

Be on trend by choosing colourful accessories for your home adorned with the prettiest bird motifs



Hummingbirds wallpaper 100/14067, from the Archive Anthology collection, £99 for a 10 metre roll, Cole & Son.



Vintage-style glass perfume bottle with bird detail, 17 (h) x 14 (w) x 5cm (d), £11.99, ANJO Home.

PH&I LOVES



Mimosa table lamp base with a floral and bird design, £166.80; cream cotton tapered drum shade, £36; both Där Lighting.



Wooden stool with a painted top featuring a bird and floral design, 42 (h) x 23cm (w), £32.95, Melody Maison.



Curved Blossom sideboard by Living by Christiane Lemieux, 85 (h) x 90 (w) x 45cm (d), £569, House of Fraser.



Lou Rota hummingbird cup and saucer made from fine bone china with charming tiny flower detailing, £32, Amara.

FEATURE SOPHIE WARREN-SMITH



John Robshaw hand-block-printed Khai Ikat cotton cushion, 30 (w) x 50cm (d), £75, Idyll Home.



Merino dotty pale blue throw with a reversible design, 200 (l) x 140cm (w), £92, other colours available, Ville & Campagne.



Allegri ottoman adorned with deep buttoning, 45 (h) x 142cm (dia), from £720, The Sofa & Chair Company.

Feeling blue

PH&I LOVES

Introduce subtle colour to your scheme with baby blue accents – soothing, calming and perfect for summer



Potter's Bowl made from 100% porcelain, hand-finished with a blue layered glaze, 32cm (dia), £70, Kelly Hoppen.



Bingley two-seat sofa in Sky soft wool, 91 (h) x 152 (w) x 90cm (d), £1,240, other sizes and fabrics available, Sofa.com.



Plantation Rug Company Hampton petrol-blue rug made from bamboo silk, 230 (l) x 150cm (w), £200, Heal's.

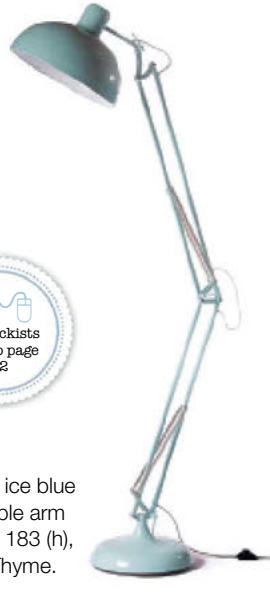


LSA International Chiffon vase in Cornflower, 25cm (h), £25, five other colours available, John Lewis.



Solus Advance plinth bath in Blue 2, can be painted in any Dulux Trade colour, 166.5 (l) x 75cm (w), £1,759, Albion Bath Company.

For stockists turn to page 112



Hector floor lamp in ice blue with a fully adjustable arm and grey flex fabric, 183 (h), £159, Atkin and Thyme.

FEATURE SOPHIE WARREN-SMITH

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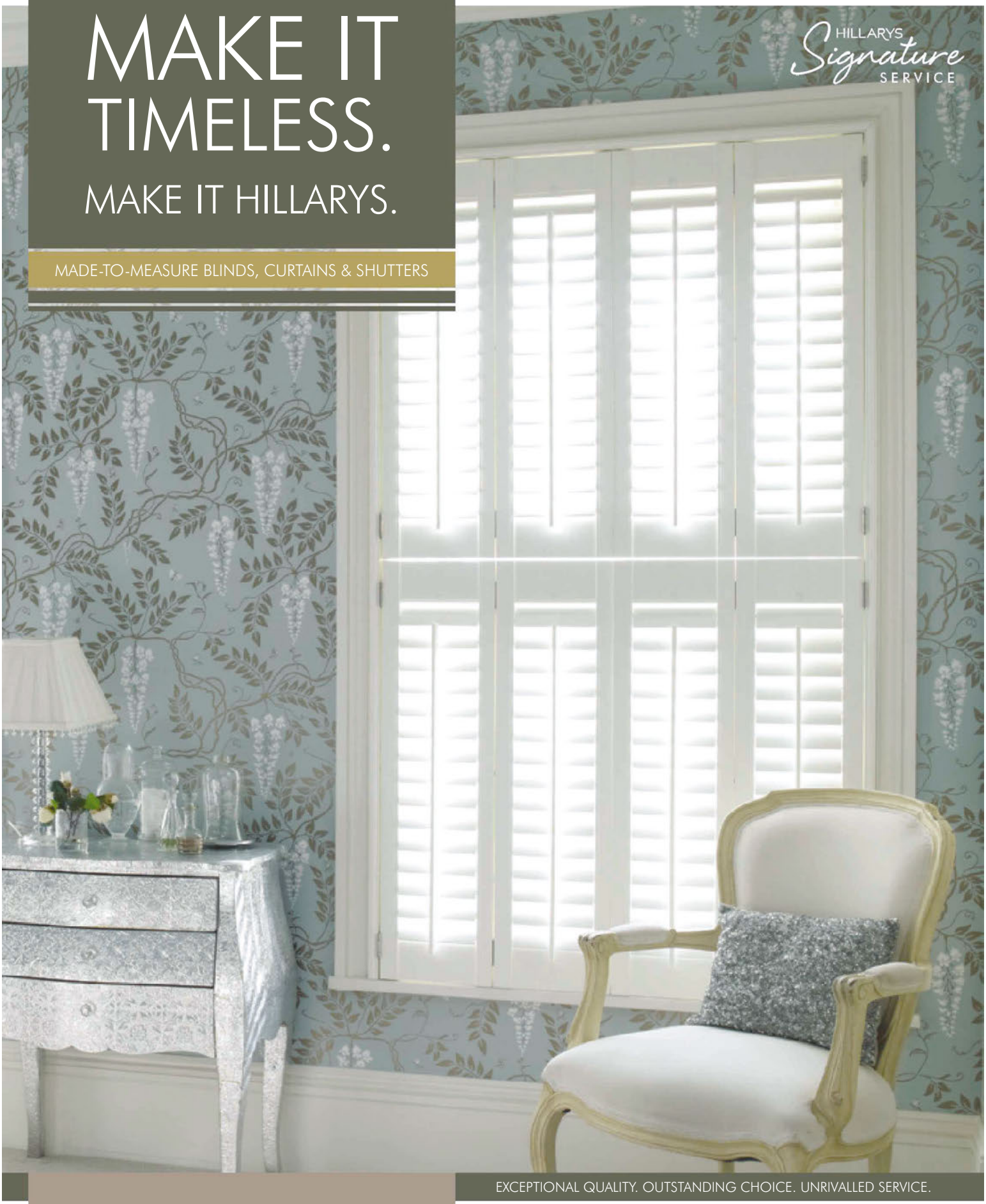
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Breezy seaside style

There's nothing quite like the fresh colour palette and relaxed mood of a coastal decorating theme so we've sought out the most inspiring ideas



For stockists turn to page 112

FEATURE EMMA CLAYTON



Style advice

The high street is full of coastal buys this season, so keep an eye out for quirky accessories.

Page 17 Give furniture a makeover with a fresh coat of paint and beautiful seagull-print wallpaper. Drawer fronts covered in Seagulls wallpaper 214585, £46 per roll, Vintage 2 collection; chest of drawers painted in Crystal Grey 26 and Window Blue 162 water-based eggshell, both £24.50 for 1 ltr; wall painted in Silverflake 7 matt emulsion, £19 for 1 ltr; all Sanderson.

Left Create a focal point with this Mediterranean-style mural. Riviera mural, 3.25 x 2.7 metres, £380, Paper Moon.

Right Add interest with charming accessories in weathered wood. Gisela Graham wooden seagulls, from £12 each, The Contemporary Home. **Opposite page For the easiest way to achieve the seaside look, simply introduce a few new soft furnishings and decorative pieces.** Ombre cushions, £7 each; chunky knitted cushion, £18; boat cushion, £8; octopus cushion, £7; ship in a bottle cushion, £7; navy throw, £20; blue and white striped throw, £10; hanging buoy, £4; ship in a bottle, £7; blue glass vase, £12; fabric bunting, £6; all George Home.





Transform your living room and bring your sofa to life by layering a selection of nautical-themed cushions and throws in navy and white onto a neutral backdrop



Be daring with designs – wallpapers featuring ships, anchors or lighthouses will look brilliant in bathrooms, children's rooms and hallways. For a more subtle option, use in panels or frames instead

Style advice

It's the season for outdoor dining, so gather nautical china, glassware and linens together for a coastal feast.

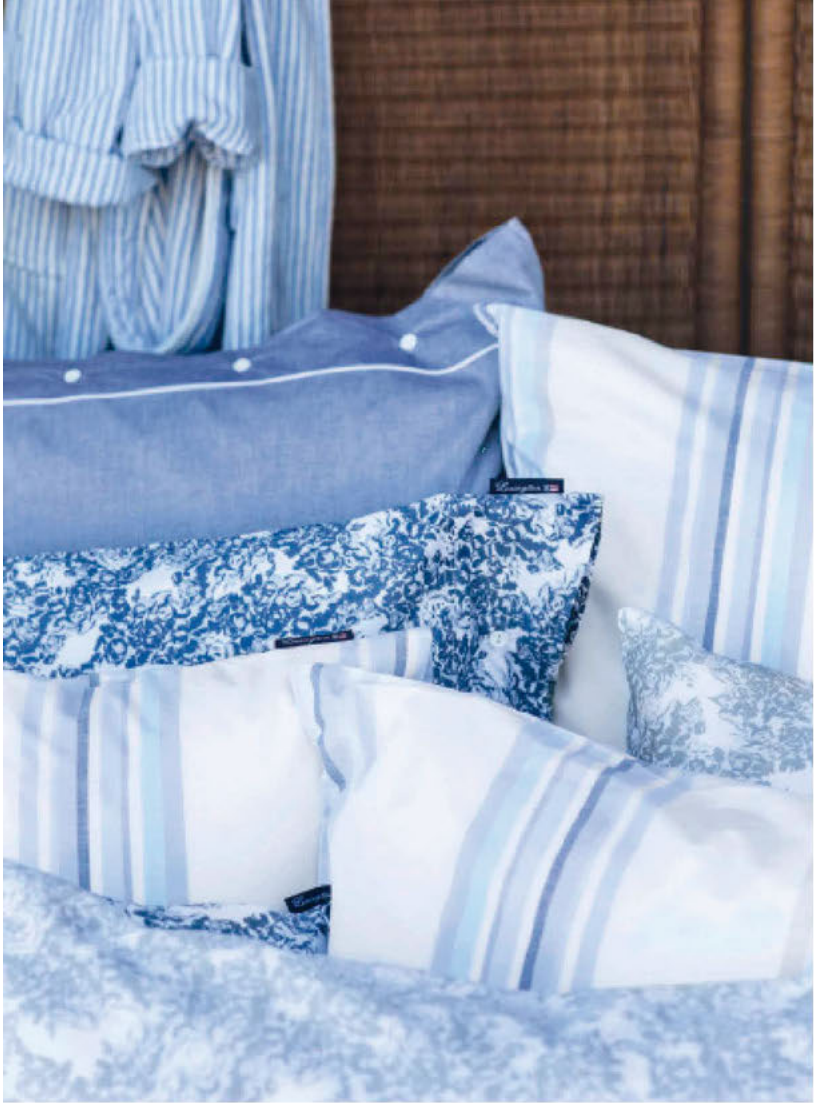


Right Enjoy dining alfresco with a mix of blue and white tableware. Chambray runner, £24; Anchor Stripe bowl, £18; Anchor Stripe platter, £16; Thrift porcelain dinnerware, from £6 per piece; Fish melamine dinner plate, £6; Fish melamine side plate, £5; Fish melamine bowl, £5; wooden placemats, £22 for two; napkins, £16 for four; rope napkin rings, £12 for four; blue ombre vases, from £20 each; Anchor carafe, £20; Anchor glasses, from £5 each; Anchor Stripe pitcher, £16; chair pads, £15 each; seashell cushion, £20; all Linea Home at House of Fraser.



Left Bold nautical cushions are the perfect choice for outdoor lounging. Nautical indoor/outdoor cushions, around £65 each; Admiral tote bag, around £64; Diamond indoor/outdoor rug, from £36; all Dash & Albert. **Opposite page Keep an eye out for quirky wallpaper patterns that will bring a touch of fun to your space.** From left: Reflection wallpaper, £11 per roll; Clouds wallpaper, £17 per roll; Harbour Illustration wallpaper, £12 per roll; Sailing wallpaper, £6 per roll; Charlotte Motif wallpaper, £20 per roll; Markham compact table lamps, £16 each all B&Q.

For stockists turn to page 112



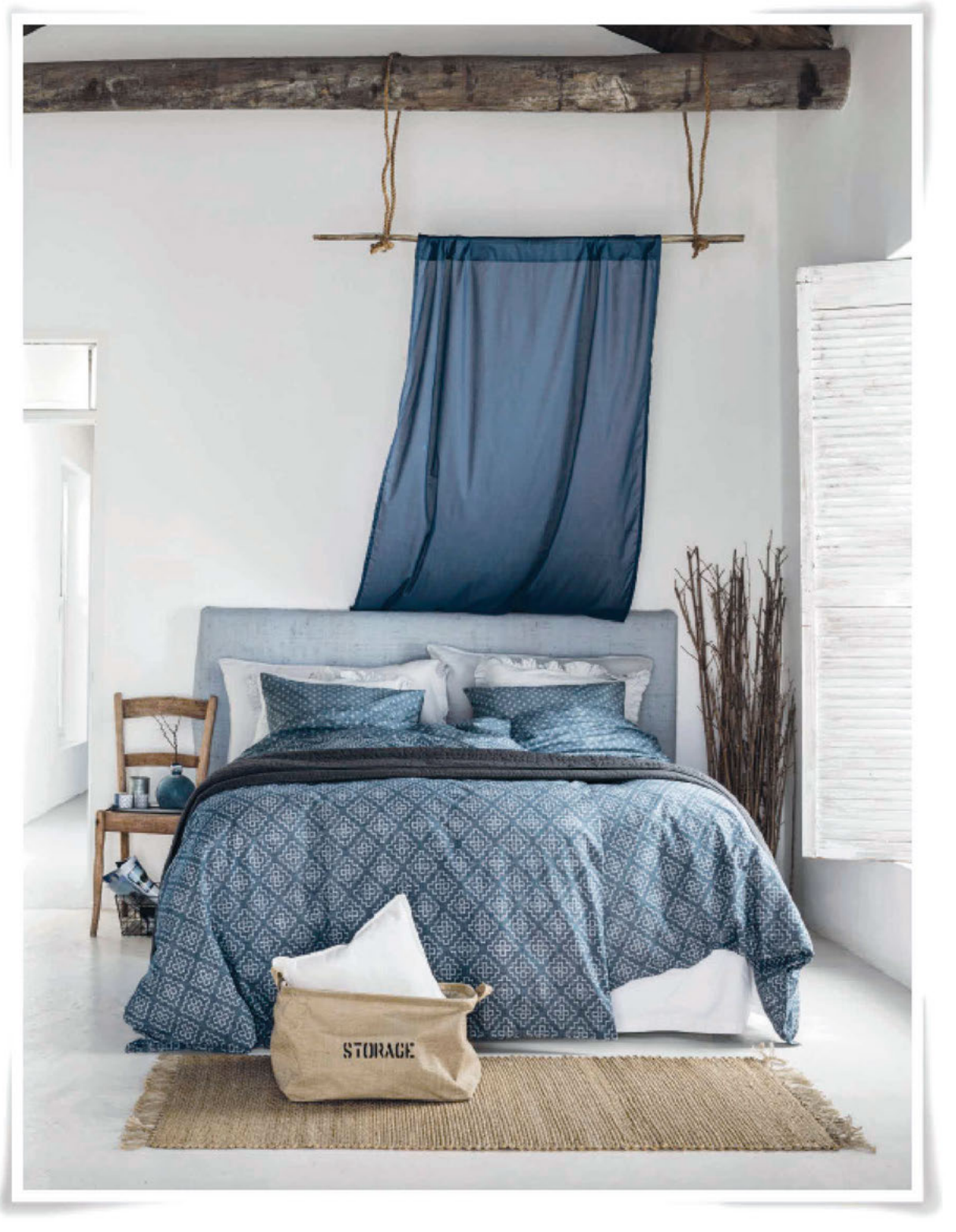
Style advice

Fresh blue and white offers a timeless colour combination – add interest by teaming stripes, florals and plains together.

Left Dress your bed with a mix of crisp blue and white designs. Poplin striped bedding, from £33 for a pillowcase; printed sateen bedding, from £33 for a pillowcase; poplin bedding with white piping, from £33 for a pillowcase; all Lexington Company.

Right Keep an eye out for unusual accessories to add a whimsical touch. Sealife magnifying glasses in fish or seahorse designs, £20 each, In-Spaces. **Opposite page Combine inky-blue linens with chalky white and natural textures.** Patterned single duvet cover sets, £14.99 each; plain linen pillowcases, £12.99 each; double bedspread, £79.99; dark blue voile curtains, £12.99 for two; jute rug, £24.99; jute storage basket, £7.99; all H&M.





The coastal look lends itself to a tranquil mood, making it the ideal choice in the bedroom where layers of tactile linens are combined with rustic elements and pared-back walls



Give your space a breath of fresh air with a splash of pale blue paint. Light Blue Estate Emulsion, £36 for 2.5 ltrs, Farrow & Ball.



Large nautical-style wooden lantern with rope handle, £19.99, Homebase.

PH&I LOVES



Knitted stripe 100% acrylic throw in red, 160 (l) x 125cm (w), £20, Tesco.



Anchor needlepoint cushion with a plush velvet reverse, £165, Jonathan Adler.

Ahoy there!

Capture an authentic seaside spirit in your home with our selection of nautical treasures

For stockists turn to page 112



Revival DAB radio in Beach Huts oilcloth by Clarke & Clarke, around £200, Roberts Radio.



Stoneware striped painted teapot, £20, J by Jasper Conran at Debenhams.



Wooden hand-painted sail boat, available in two sizes, from £3.95, Coastal Home.



Linum Tao cotton rug, to add a touch of New England style, 160 (l) x 70cm (w), £75, Adventino.



Breton ceramic table lamp with hand-painted blue stripes, 50cm (h), £45, Next.



Wicker picnic basket containing four place settings, £55, Marks & Spencer.

FEATURE EMMA CLAYTON

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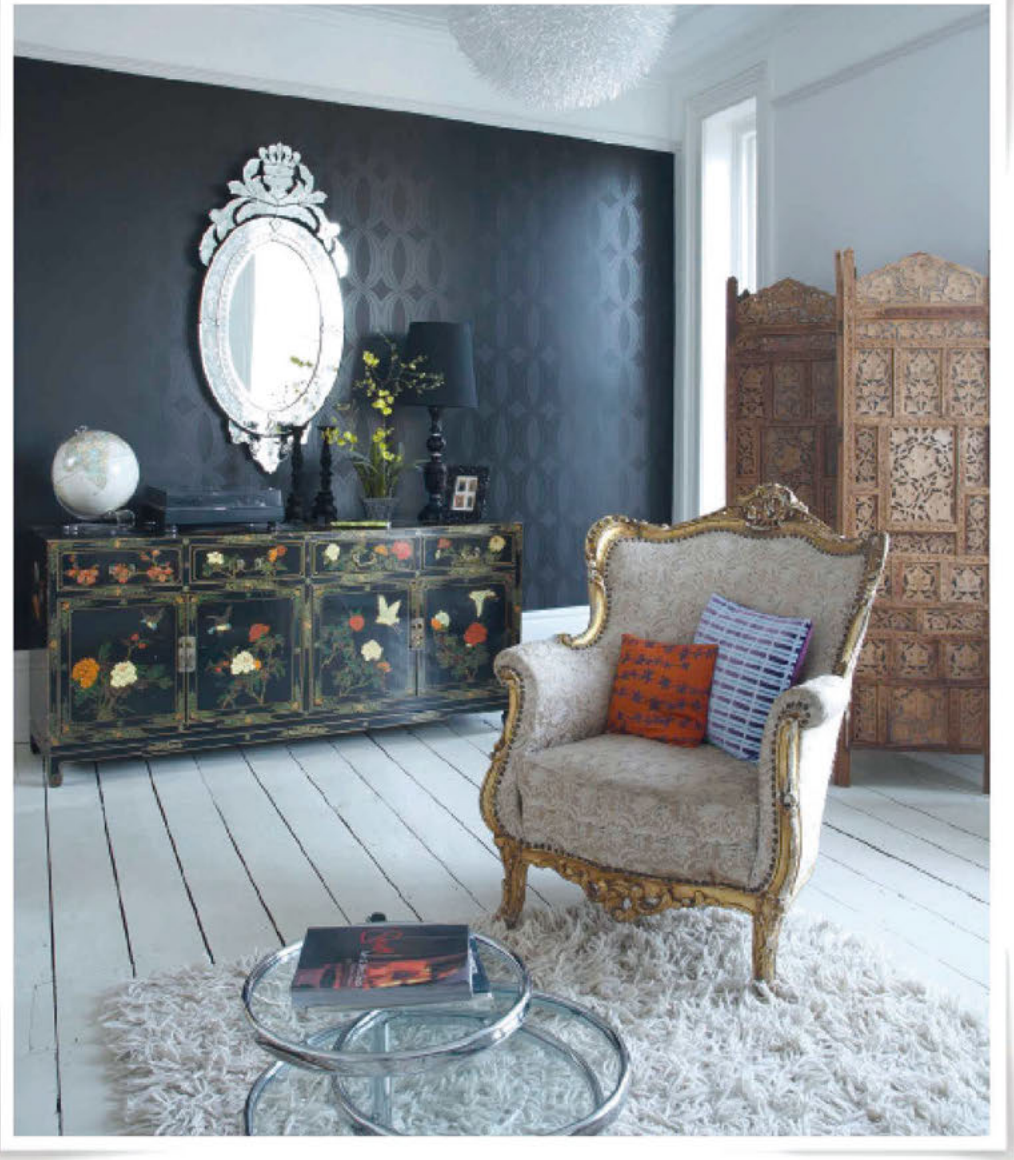
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Fowey estuary · Suffolk quayside · Mumbles villa · Hastings beachfront



MAIN PHOTOGRAPH BRIDGET PEARSON

GET THE LOOK

If you love Bryony's Scandinavian-style bedroom or Richard and Judith's nautical dining area, we've found key buys to create their look in your home.



REAL HOMES

Four owners open the door to their homes to take us on a room-by-room guided tour.



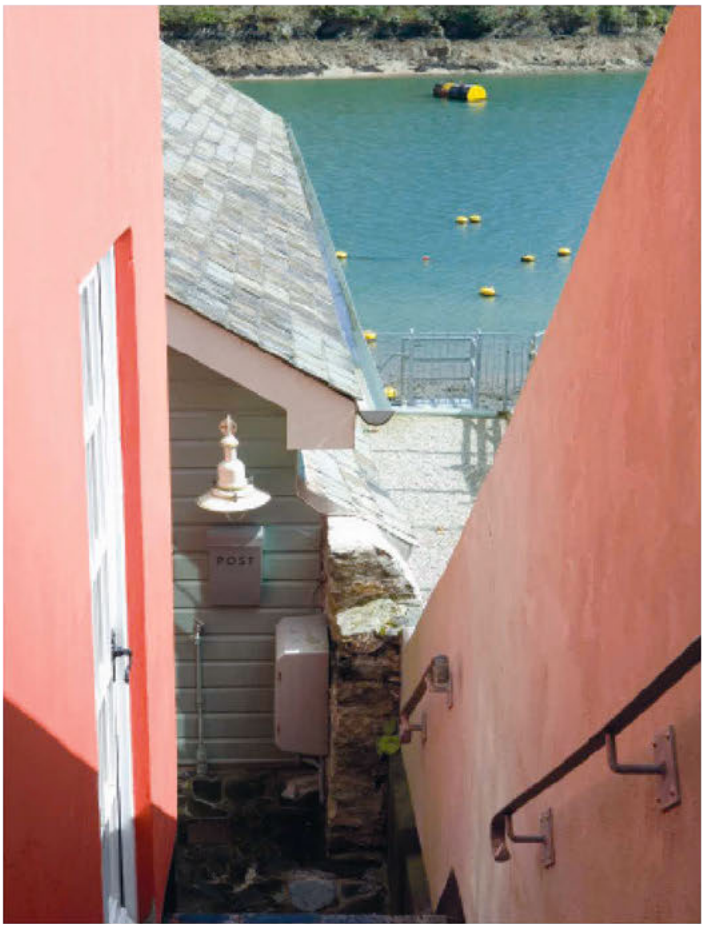
GARDENING

Tony and Jo Williams' unique garden on the site of a former railway station is filled with clever and innovative planting.





The boathouse is easy to distinguish from the shoreline by its balcony that juts out over the Fowey estuary at high tide. When the tide is out, the sandy beach is popular with walkers.





LIVING ON THE WATER'S EDGE

After 10 years of waiting, Richard and Judith Bond bought and restored the dilapidated boathouse they had admired from afar for so many years

FEATURE MAGGIE COLVIN/EWA **PHOTOGRAPHY** SPIKE POWELL/EWA

Like so many unspoilt Cornish fishing villages caught in a time warp, the peaceful and leisurely pace of life in Fowey attracts writers, artists, tired holidaymakers and frazzled businessmen alike. At this time of year, sunbeams dance across the gentle ripples of the tidal river, while blue skies, swans, gulls, kingfishers, oystercatchers and small boats provide a fascinating and ever-changing vista. 'The atmosphere here is intoxicating,' says Richard Bond, who, along with his wife Judith, fell in love with a boathouse belonging to the local sailing instructor. When he decided to retire, the overjoyed Bonds got the green light to buy it.

Acquiring planning permission to convert it into a residential dwelling was a surprisingly positive >>

Key facts



THE OWNERS Richard and Judith Bond, who spend as much time as possible at this two-bedroom holiday home, entertaining friends and family.

THEIR HOME A former dilapidated boathouse on the banks of the Fowey estuary in Cornwall.

WORK COMPLETED The building was gutted and renovated from top to bottom. The floor downstairs was raised above the waterline and the corrugated iron roof was replaced with slate tiles. A number of sailing fittings have been cleverly incorporated into the finished design.





The kitchen units by James Ellis Design of Kingsdon in Somerset (01935 841000, www.jamesellisdesign.com) are painted in Bone by Farrow & Ball (01202 876141, www.farrow-ball.com). The handles were crafted out of wire and boat winch connections.

'We are able to watch ducks swim by and wave at boats as we sit up in bed in the morning drinking cups of tea'

experience. 'There was already a lived-in flat on the top floor, while boats were stored below,' explains Richard. 'Luckily, there was enough space to incorporate an inflatable boat store into the design, which is what the planners wanted. They also insisted we keep the original sliding doors through which the boats were launched. This actually proved a great success because raising the floor above the waterline in the ground-floor bedrooms determined the low position of the window in the master bedroom – hence we are now able to watch ducks swim by and wave at boats as we sit up in bed in the morning drinking cups of tea. It is like living in a boat, but with the comfort of bricks and mortar.'

Placing the living area on the top floor and the bedrooms below maximised the estuary views, and Judith insisted that her newly designed kitchen should have a sink looking out over the water, so that whoever's cooking doesn't miss out on the sights. The balcony protrudes out over the sea at high tide, and for daring teenage visitors it doubles as a diving board!

CLEARING THE BUILDING

Once the boathouse had been gutted, Richard and his architect James Blair worked out room sizes using Champagne bottles as markers. 'It was so much easier to see the actual spaces in situ than trying to imagine them from plan,' he says. As the old corrugated roof had to be replaced, large sky lights with ship's hatches – a nod to the history of the building – were incorporated into the design of new slate roof to light the kitchen area below. There was moment of triumph when the old plasterboard ceiling came down revealing lovely old roof trusses, which now form an integral part of the building.

As a passionate sailor and restorer of boats, Richard had easy access to sourcing authentic >>



Everybody takes it in turns to cook when they come to stay and the sink has been placed in the island unit overlooking the water so washing up is never a chore.



Home truth

The street and staircase access is so restricted that all building materials and furniture arrived by water on boats and barges.

Get the look p39

For a relaxed feel, Judith used garden chairs mixed with an antique oak table – the crystal chandelier is her much-contested quirky touch. The napkins are by her daughter, Emily Bond (0117 376 3067, www.emilybond.co.uk).



The living room is the only space dedicated to a blue and white scheme, emphasising its close proximity to the sea. Inspired by Swedish houses spotted on sailing holidays, the floor has been given a light whitewashed finish.



There was a moment of triumph when the old plasterboard ceiling came down, revealing lovely old roof trusses, which form an integral part of the building

nautical elements. Metal yacht stanchions linked by horizontal boat wire enclose the stairwell, taking the place of conventional wooden banisters. Reclaimed yacht decking was used to face the cupboards in the new bathrooms. Ship decking was also used for the balcony floor, enclosed by more boat railings. There are yacht details to be found in the kitchen, too, where wire and winch connections were turned into rather smart and creative kitchen handles.

A SPARKLING SUCCESS

The styling of the boathouse was undertaken by Judith, who was careful not to go too overboard with a beach theme. 'I deliberated avoided an overdose of blue and white, except in the living room, so I chose a palette of cream with a few accents in cherry red and taupe,' she explains. 'For furniture, I mixed French, Scandinavian and some rural English pieces to introduce a feeling of informality, with classic director's chairs and metal garden dining chairs.'

Judith's schemes were enriched by her daughter Emily, who at just the right moment launched her own textile company and produced a design of dachshunds that Judith found irresistible. 'I have used this in blue and white to cover large cushions on the sofa and as lampshades and table napkins. We have a wire-haired dachshund called Dermot, so this fabric was a must-have.'

A final stroke of quirky genius was Judith's 'mad decision', according to Richard, to hang a French chandelier in the dining room. 'I thought she was off her trolley, but the crystals catch moving reflections off the water, which light up the ceiling. It is a sparkling asset,' he says.







Above, right and **far right** In quest of serenity and simplicity, the master bedroom has been almost entirely decorated in shades of pale cream with an accent of cherry red. This is the room where ducks literally swim past the window at high tide. 'We sometimes wave at the people in boats while we sit up in bed,' says Richard. The overall feel is crisp, contemporary and comfortable.

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Reclaimed teak refectory table, 78 (h) x 100 (w) x 180cm (d), £1,765, different finishes available, Raft Furniture.



Frou Frou glass chandelier with a gold-effect frame, 65 (h) x 37cm (dia), £145, The French Bedroom Company.



Oriental light spot bowl with contrasting floral pattern and blue rim, £4.50, Waitrose Dining Collection.

GET THE LOOK

Be inspired by Richard's and Judith's dining room by teaming seaside accessories with stylish furniture



Linum Classic Stripe runner, made from 100% cotton, 45 (w) x 150cm (d), £22.90, Adventino.



Classic English sailing yacht model with lacquered wood hull, 63 (h) x 44cm (w), £49.96, The Nautical Company.

For stockists turn to page 112



Swallow print napkins on a pale sky-blue cotton fabric, set of four, £13, Sophie Allport.



Boulevard dining chair with antiqued finish, can be used inside and out, 86 (h) x 46 (w) x 54cm (d), £299, Oka.

PH&I LOVES



Lobster platter tray by American designer Thomas Paul, 37 (w) x 30cm (d), £24.99, The Oak Room.

FEATURE SOPHIE WARREN-SMITH





NORSE CODE

Bryony Hebson's picture-book quayside Suffolk cottage has been refurbished and furnished with a subtle array of nautically themed, Scandinavian-inspired antiques

FEATURE/STYLING GREG COOK **PHOTOGRAPHY** RICHARD PARSONS

Home truth

'I was worried that cladding the walls would be too much with the wooden floors, so I softened it with a wash of Farrow & Ball's Lime White.'

Above At the foot of the stairs sits a wing-chair upholstered in Leela black-and-white gingham fabric from Malabar (020 7501 4200, www.malabar.co.uk). **Right** and **far right** Located on the first floor, this spacious L-shaped room is the light-flooded, triple-aspect space at the very heart of the cottage. A large, comfy Wesley-Barrell sofa (01993 893111, www.wesley-barrell.co.uk), covered in cream-white linen, is flanked by a pair of East India Company tea chests. To the left of the sofa is the dining room. One of Bryony's favourite pastimes is to sit and soak up the sights and sounds of the quay – and her bird-spotting book is always close to hand.









'I could see there was a great opportunity here to inject some character into the place and create something really special'

It's hard to say what Bryony Hebson's beautiful 18th-century quayside cottage is surrounded by more of: water or history. The answer must surely be that this two-bedroom property, with its black-painted render below white weatherboards, is bounded by more than its fair share of both.

At the side of a busy marina, tucked down the end of an old quay jutting into the wide meander of the river Debden, the cottage is cornered on two sides by a flat and serene body of water with barely sloping planes of land beyond, providing those quintessential big Suffolk skies. Barely out of view are the low grassy mounds of Sutton Hoo, while at the back of the cottage the view is of yet more water, this time in the form of the ebbing tide pool that has filled, drained and refilled through the centuries to provide the cottage's nearest structural neighbour – the majestic 300-year-old, four-storey tidemill – with the power to turn its giant wheel. One of only two left surviving in working order in the whole of England, there has been a tidemill of some form or another on this site since the 12th century, and Byrony's own property started out as a part of the mill's next-door granary.

'I've always had a passion for boats and being close to water,' explains Bryony, comfortably seated in her light-filled, triple-aspect living-room, located on the first floor of the building. 'One of my favourite occupations here is simply looking out the windows at the amazing ever-changing skies and the comings and goings on the marina, and then imagining the same busy bustle of commerce and trade that's been going on along this stretch of water for hundreds of years.'

AFFINITY TO WATER

Bryony was initially attracted here in the Nineties, lured down from Yorkshire, along with her late-husband Robert, by the close proximity to water and the area's historic links with the sea.

'We were both avid sailors and the very first thing we did on arriving here was to buy a boat,' says Bryony, who still keeps a vintage wood-built motor cruiser moored in the marina just a few hundred yards away. 'Initially we had a period property in the middle of town, then about 10 years ago we noticed this cottage was up for sale and we simply couldn't resist. For anyone with an affinity to water the location couldn't have been more perfect, but when we first took a look inside I was amazed at >>



Key facts



THE OWNER Bryony Hebson, who moved to Suffolk from Yorkshire with her late-husband in the 1990s.
HER HOME A two-bedroom quayside cottage on the River Debden, converted from part of an 18th-century granary.
PURCHASED 1998. **WORK COMPLETED** When Bryony and Robert bought the house it has been recently converted into a residential dwelling and was devoid of character or colour. Bryony set about transforming it into the comfortable home you see today, complete with tongue-and-groove walls and a restful Gustavian-inspired colour palette.

'What could be better than packing the hold of your own boat with your chosen cargo and sailing home?'



how bland the property was. It had been converted a few years earlier from part of the larger granary space and it had been given an inoffensively neutral magnolia finish. On the upside, though, it had been well planned out, with the main living area located on the first floor to make the most of the views, so my initial disappointment quickly turned to enthusiasm as I realised that there was a great opportunity here to inject some real character into the place and create something really special.'

Bryony's inspiration is undoubtedly nautical in theme but executed with a refreshing delicacy, part of which comes from her decision to use the subtle light-enhancing palette of the Gustavian style, with its bird's-egg range of creams, greens and light greys. In fact, the interiors created by the 19th-century Swedish artist Carl Larsson were a particular inspiration to Bryony. 'I've always loved that style,' she explains. 'Those luminous colours are perfect for reflecting light into a room, and I'm sure it's no coincidence that Sweden is another country with great stretches of coast.'

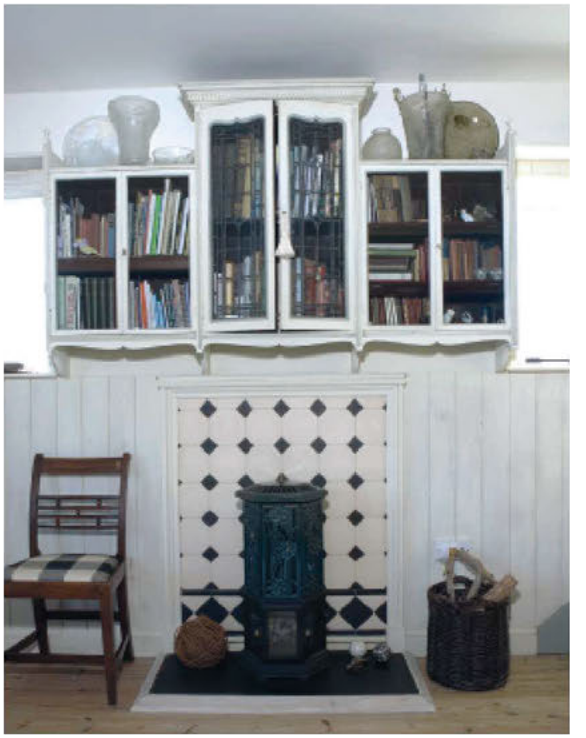
SCANDINAVIAN INSPIRATION

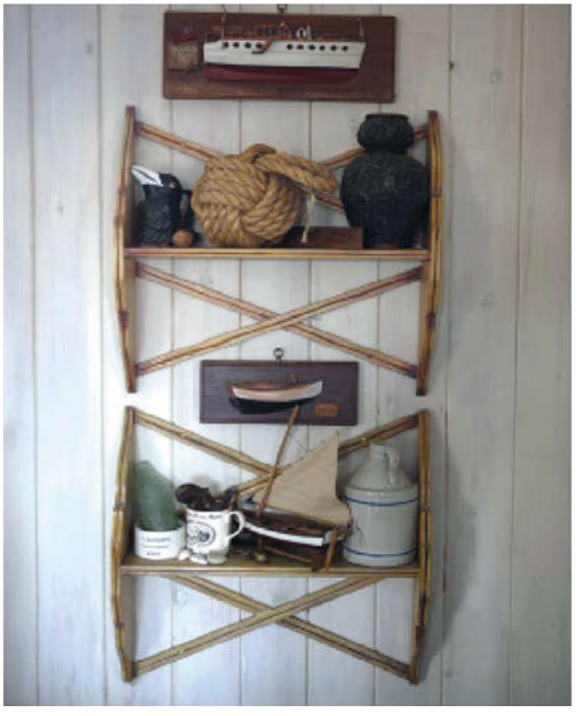
The walls of the room have all been clad in tongue-and-groove board to create a more authentic nautical feel, while the high shelf running around above the windows is a great finishing detail that enhances the period feel of the interior. 'One of the first things I did was to rip up all the beige carpet to leave the lovely pine floorboards exposed,' she explains. 'Initially I was worried that wood cladding all the walls would be too much. But this is a timber structure and once the tongue-and-groove had been softened over with a wash coat of Farrow & Ball's Lime White I knew I'd made a good decision.'

Many of Bryony's furnishings and nautical trinkets have been brought back over water by Bryony herself, the spoils of boat trips with Robert taken to France shortly after the couple first moved here. 'It was certainly a great way to bring back furnishings for the house,' she recalls. 'In fact, what could be better than packing the hold of your own boat with your chosen cargo and sailing home?'









Left The kitchen on the first floor is a cosy space reminiscent of a ship's galley. Wooden cupboard doors and unit fronts have been boldly painted in Farrow & Ball's Pitch Black (01202 876141, www.farrow-ball.com) to offset the white countertops and tiled splashback, giving the space the same traditional monochrome look of the exterior. Suspended from the ceiling above is an antique wooden rack hung with a large array of cooking utensils and copper pots and pans. **Above from top** A cast-iron stove of Art Nouveau design with black and white tiles provides the living room's focal point and continues the monochrome theme. Nauticalia fills the shelves.

Get the look p49





Top Located on the top floor of the house, the Gustavian-inspired guest bedroom is furnished with an Empire-style painted wooden bed, upholstered in pink toile-de-Jouy fabric from Sanderson (0844 543 9500, www.sanderson-uk.com) and complemented by red and white gingham curtains. **Above** and **right** Several of the walls in the main bedroom have been left with exposed natural brickwork. The light and airy room is dominated by an elaborate antique Victorian brass half-tester bed dressed with crisp white bedding, while seagrass laid on the floor adds to the natural vibe. A simple pine wardrobe and chest of drawers completes the look.



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Wooden Ribbed ball finial in cream, to fit a 35mm curtain pole, £22, eight other finishes available, Laura Ashley.



Tapie garden tray table with scalloped edging, 70 (h) x 57 (w) x 40cm (d), £120, Out There Interiors.



Avon Check in Peony, 100% cotton, £24.50 per m, also comes in seven other colourways, Ian Mankin.



Larsson double bed with high footboard and Pepper Grey upholstery, £1,095, other paint finishes available, Neptune.

GET THE LOOK

Use traditional toile with white-painted furniture to recreate Bryony's Scandinavian style



Metal antique cream magazine store by Dibor, 42 (h) x 41 (w) x 20cm (d), £54, Not On The High Street.



Red cotton satin Harrogate toile print cushion with piping, 45 (w) x 45cm (d), £70, In-Spaces.



Sebastian side table in antiqued sage, hand-carved from mango wood, 65 (h) x 50 (w) x 35cm (d), £195, Within.



For stockists turn to page 112

Sophie bedside lamp base in cream, £40; 30cm Natural Linen shade, £28; both Pooky.

HEAVENS SENT

Lucy Heavens could never have dreamed as a child that the house she had always loved would one day be the home where she would bring up her family

FEATURE/STYLING SALLY GILLAM/GAP INTERIORS
PHOTOGRAPHY COLIN POOLE/GAP INTERIORS



Lucy Heavens believes in fairy tales. As a little girl, she used to gaze up at the imposing Regency house on the hill above her grandmother's seafront home and wish one day she'd own it. Now, thanks to fairies, she does.

Lucy was a supply teacher in Brighton when she began sketching fairies at the kitchen table as she waited for the phone to ring with her next job. 'I was so pleased with my drawings; I was literally skipping round the room with delight,' she says. 'Because I was busy, though, I stored them away for almost a year before doing anything with them.'

Friends encouraged her to start making greetings cards and Juicy Lucy rapidly took flight, with Lucy's fairy characters gracing everything from cards and calendars to cups and cakes. Today she supplies retail giants such as Top Shop, River Island, Paperchase, Sainsbury's, WHSmith and Asda, as well as running a thriving online business.

RETURN TO THEIR ROOTS

The magic of it all, however, came when Lucy was on holiday in Mumbles, South Wales, where her grandmother lived. As she strolled along the promenade, Lucy looked up and spotted her fairy tale home was for sale. 'I just couldn't believe it when I saw the For Sale sign. I rang Rhodri and persuaded him to come and see it,' she says.

It was almost a done deal before they even set foot inside the house. Every window at the front has spectacular sea views looking out over Swansea Bay, while to the side is Oystermouth Castle – the Gower >>



Key facts



THE OWNERS Lucy Heavens and Rhodri Evans live in the house with their two children, Roan and Jem. Lucy is founder of Juicy Lucy, selling greetings cards and gifts. Rhodri is co-director of the company.

THEIR HOME A four-bedroom late-Regency villa in Mumbles, South Wales, built in the 1800s.

PURCHASED 2007.

WORK COMPLETED The house was extended at the back to make a huge open-plan living space. It was also re-roofed, re-rendered and updated to make it suitable for family living.

Experience taught Lucy not to choose a black granite worktop in her new kitchen. 'I'd had them in every other house I'd lived in and they showed up every speck,' she says. 'Trouble is, I then looked down and, to my horror, realised the flooring shows every speck instead!'

Get the look p57







Splashes of jewel-bright pink and blue enliven the predominently neutral scheme of the living room. A framed painting by artist Lucy Loveheart (www.lucyloveheart.com) hangs above a white French-style painted sideboard (above right).



Home truth

'I'd describe the house as pretty with a classic feel. It's quite feminine, so thank goodness I've got an understanding husband!'



Peninsula's finest Norman castle where Lucy and Rhodri were married – and across the road stands the ancient village church. 'Rhodri was born in Wales,' Lucy says, 'so he was keen to move back. This really was our dream house.'

MAKING IT THEIR OWN

The previous owners of the four-bedroomed 1860s property were interior designers and it had already been beautifully decorated, although not exactly to the couple's taste. Lucy recalls: 'It was full of antiques, expensive curtains and thick carpets. I was slightly in awe of its grown-up style. It seemed odd to be moving in with our Ikea furniture. I'd always dreamed of living in a weatherboard, wisteria-clad house like this, but sadly both had to come off as there was damp and the property needed re-rendering and re-roofing. And while the interior had been decorated with no expense spared, it was in need of an update.'

From the moment the couple bought the house they had a vision of what they wanted to do to make it theirs, but they had to save up the money before work could begin. One of Lucy's must-haves was an open-plan kitchen. She says: 'Wherever we have lived in the past, I have always made sure we could eat in the kitchen, even if it was just on a fold-up table. Here we decided the main structural change would be to extend the kitchen and create a big open-plan living/dining/ >>





A Gustavian-style bench in the porch has been teamed with an oversized distressed cream mirror to create a romantic, feminine effect.

'What better start to the day can you have than opening the curtains onto such a wonderful bay'

kitchen area at the back of the house.' The couple embarked on a nine-month building project. 'We packed our suitcases and carried them down the hill to my grandmother's house,' recalls Lucy. 'I have to confess, I didn't actually like visiting while the place was being knocked about. Jem was just a couple of months' old at the time, and I was really busy at work, so it was a very stressful time.'

While there were numerous changes, the couple were lucky to inherit some wonderful features installed by the previous owners, such as the gothic arched windows and doors, beautiful bookcases, wardrobes and a spectacular family bathroom. When it came to decorating, Lucy and Rhodri wanted a fresh, modern feel with a neutral backdrop and splashes of colour. 'I basically stuck to a background palette of two key colours – Dulux's Jasmine White and Farrow & Ball's Green Blue,' says Lucy.

She loves a little bit of girly glamour, too. 'I hate taking down decorations after Christmas, so some have stayed put – the glittery stags from Heal's, my jewel lights draped over the living room overmantel mirror and the baubles in the kitchen. 'Nothing here is really expensive. I am a big Laura Ashley and Dunelm fan, all mixed up with antique pieces,' she continues. 'I always try and buy locally and we are blessed with some great shops and fantastic local artists.'

A SPRINKLING OF FAIRY DUST

Fairies are, understandably, everywhere and not just Lucy's own. She adds: 'I am a big fan of fellow fairy painter Lucy Loveheart and have several of her paintings. Most of the art here is done by family, friends or local artists.'

With the work now behind them, the couple have been able to enjoy bringing up their two boys in their revamped home. 'What better start to the day can you have than opening the curtains onto such a wonderful bay? It is truly magical and we love it here,' proclaims Lucy. &H

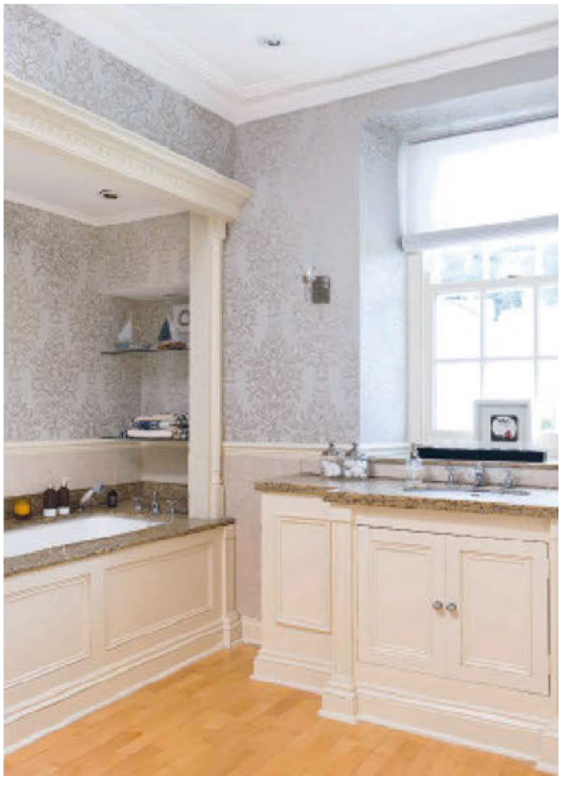
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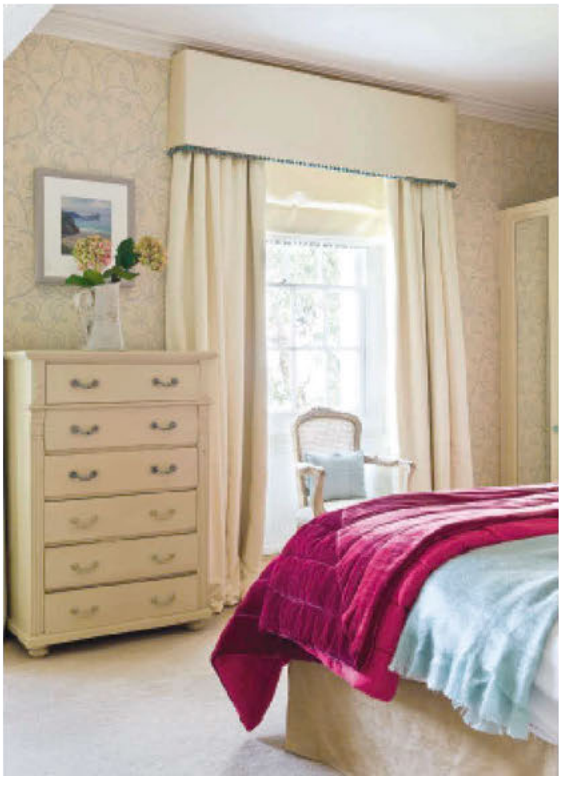


A colourful and eclectic mix of accessories brightens up the built-in bookshelves in the newly extended family space, which are further enhanced with coloured glass knobs. The antique dining table and chairs were from Frenchfinds (01270 842445, www.frenchfinds.co.uk), a company specialising in French furniture.



Above and **far right** An upholstered headboard in the main bedroom has been teamed with Lucy's trademark pink accents. 'The painting in our bedroom is by the famous Welsh artist Gareth Thomas (01792 386260, www.gareththomas.info), who is a good friend of ours and lives around the corner. It was a present from Rhodri,' she says. **Right** The bathroom was installed by the previous owners, but Lucy added extra sparkle with a glistening wallpaper.







FAB28YNE1 fridge, contains three glass shelves, a chrome wine rack and an ice box, 60cm (w), £972, Smeg.



Potted faux dendrobium orchid in an aged terracotta pot, 39cm (h), £26, Oka.



Paradise Bunch cotton duck fabric, a 1950s-inspired spriggy floral print, £20 per m, Cath Kidston.

For stockists turn to page 112

GET THE LOOK

Create a calming kitchen with neutral tones, practical pieces and striking black accessories



Set of three herb pots on a tray in Shutter Blue, 43 (l) x 14cm (d), also comes in Clay, £18, Garden Trading.



Black cotton drum ceiling light, comes with a diffuser for a soft glow, 30 (h) x 70cm (w), £225, Graham & Green.



Engineered three-layer American Walnut flooring, comes in a choice of thicknesses, £161.16 per sq m, Urbane Living.



Chichester Housekeeper's Cupboard, 209 (h) x 120 (w) x 49cm (d), £1,995, other colours available, Neptune.

PH&I LOVES



Handmade and handpainted Maisy medium-sized pitcher, 18cm (h), £42, Susie Watson Designs.

FEATURE SOPHIE WARREN-SMITH

GOING ON INSTINCT

Moving to the coast from London was like a breath of fresh air for Nicola Gill, who was desperate for a family home by the sea

FEATURE MIA PEJCINOVIC/NARRATIVES **PHOTOGRAPHY** BRIDGET PEIRSON/NARRATIVES



Nicola loves sitting at the bay window in the upstairs living room and looking out at the changing light and panoramic sea views. The Sixties armchairs and the cowhide rug all came from eBay.



When Nicola Gill returned to her home in Brixton from an extended backpacking trip in Central America, she was surprised by how much she felt hemmed in by the city, especially as she's a Londoner. A few weeks later she unexpectedly discovered she had a baby on the way and a vague desire to up sticks turned into a focused plan. 'I really wanted to be by the sea yet still within easy reach of London,' says Nicola. 'As several of my friends had already moved from London to Brighton it was a familiar and obvious choice. But it was soon clear I couldn't remotely afford what I wanted (a Georgian house with sea views less than 15 minutes' walk from the beach). Plus when I visited with a view to living there, it felt too big, too unfriendly, too self-consciously trendy and seemed to have lost some of its charm,' she says.

A PLACE TO CALL HOME

Nicola started looking at alternative towns along the south coast that had cheaper period properties, an artistic vibe and potential for regeneration. She considered Worthing and Eastbourne before she saw a piece in *The Times* property section about Hastings. 'The second I drove in past the row upon row of beautiful Georgian terraces I fell in love with the place,' says Nicola. And that was before she had even made it to the huge, gently shelving beach, which is sandy at low tide and home to Britain's last remaining beach-launched fishing fleet. 'I had never been to Hastings before and couldn't believe the thriving mix of independent boutiques, interiors shops, art galleries, organic delis, restaurants and bars we discovered,' she explains. True, there were a >>

Key facts



THE OWNER Nicola Gill, a journalist, lives in the house with her two children Iggy and Tallulah, and Duffy the Hungarian vizsla.

THEIR HOME A four-bedroom 1840s Georgian terraced house in Hastings, East Sussex.

PURCHASED 2006.

WORK COMPLETED Nicola added a large open-plan kitchen/dining/living room to the rear of the house and then refreshed and updated the decor throughout, giving each of the rooms a contemporary feel with the use of bold colour and daring patterns.

'I've never had the kind of unlimited budget that would let me buy whatever I liked, so I'm always on the lookout for sale pieces that will fit with what I have'





Above from top Nicola is an avid collector. Her ever-growing assortment of eclectic furniture is a constant work in progress with frequent trips to markets and charity shops. Picking up the colours in the Chinese sideboard, Nicola has allowed an element of colour to enter the otherwise neutral living room with a sofa upholstered in velvet striped fabric by Designers Guild (020 7351 5775, www.designersguild.com) and luxurious co-ordinating velvet and silk cushions.

fraction of the number in Brighton but then the property prices were also a fraction of the price, and Nicola started looking at large Georgian family homes the she could actually afford.

GOING BY EXPERIENCE

As a seasoned house renovator with interior design experience, Nicola knew exactly what she was looking for and arranged to see five houses the next day. 'This house was fourth on the list and despite the threadbare navy carpets throughout and two gloomy downstairs rooms I knew the second I walked in that I wanted it. Sunlight flooded in to the high-ceilinged rooms through the westerly aspect front windows and the room dimensions were enormous,' says Nicola. She made an offer on the spot and although it was an impulsive thing to do, she trusted her gut instinct that Hastings was the place for her.

Although structurally sound, the house had been owned by the same family for the past 25 years and the decor left a lot to be desired, plus it needed complete re-wiring, a new boiler and re-plumbing. The biggest job was transforming the kitchen. 'Even though I hadn't had Iggy when I bought the house, I knew from friends with children that a big open-plan kitchen/diner made life with small children as easy as it can be. So that is what I worked on first,' says Nicola. The small rooms were knocked into one open-plan space with large glass sliding doors at one end to maximise the daylight.

A UNIFIED BACKDROP

The common theme throughout the house is Nicola's unique sense of style. 'The living room upstairs was where I knew I would retreat in the evenings to watch the panoramic sea views and the sunset,' says Nicola. This room is purposefully calmer than the rest of the house and the starting point was the black Chinese cabinet that she picked up in a junk shop many years ago, which she emphasised further by placing against a wall of black wallpaper.

Nicola took the decision to paint the rest of the walls in the house, apart from the bathroom, white to create a unified backdrop against which splashes of vibrant, colourful furnishings, textiles and accessories would really make an impact. 'Having travelled extensively around the world, I love the >>





Style advice

Nicola is skilled at layering patterns. Practise creating her look by putting together a mood board of different fabric and wallpaper swatches.

It's a real luxury to have a separate living room and Nicola loves the serenity and calm of this more adult space. The mainly monochrome and neutral colour scheme is a real departure from the use of colour in the rest of the house.



Home truth

'I didn't take into account the sheer slog and awkwardness of renovating a three-storey house with with no side or rear access.'



The kitchen was designed to be child-friendly but also glamorous enough for adult dinner parties. A splash of acid yellow and an elaborate Chinese Dragon wallpaper by Osborne & Little (020 8812 3123, www.osborneandlittle.com) adds vibrant colour.



intense colours and patterns used in the Far East, Asia and central America,' she says.

Nicola is a pro at effortlessly mixing styles and isn't frightened of layering colours, patterns and textures that really make a statement in every room. Her creative eye makes it look easy, but it's actually incredibly difficult to achieve successfully. East and west, old and new, minimal and grandiose are all combined in this vibrant family house and look fantastic mixed together. Nicola also has a keen eye for a bargain. 'While I love design, I've never had the kind of unlimited budget that would just allow me to buy whatever I liked, so I'm always on the lookout for sale pieces, eBay bargains, high street pieces or even junk shop finds that will fit in with what I have,' she says. 'So many junk shop finds can be painted or adapted and if you're confident about your style, people often assume things are more expensive than they actually are.'

Nicola couldn't be happier with her home. It had always been her dream to live by the sea and she feels that this is UK coastal living at its best. 'In summer I take the children to the beach as much as possible and it feels like we are on a permanent holiday,' says Nicola. 'Maybe it's a combination of the sea air, the funfair atmosphere and all the healthy fish we eat but there truly seems to be something magical about living here and this house was the best impulse purchase I ever made!'





Above The bathroom makes a dramatic statement and while it has a huge wow factor, it's actually great for kids as it's effectively a giant wet room. **Above right** Before having children, Nicola travelled all over the world and has picked up pieces from all her trips. The sequined headboard was created by stapling vintage sari fabric that she brought back from India onto padded MDF. **Right** The bunk bed with slide in Iggy's room was a hand-me-down that Nicola transformed by painting bright red. **Far right** Tallulah's room is warm and inviting and, in true Nicola style, isn't typically girlie.







Mae mirror cube side table, 52 (h) x 39 (w) x 39cm (d), coffee table also available, £125, Next.



Marimekko Saapaivakirja Oiva stoneware mug with unique green pattern, 250ml capacity, £16, Amara.

For stockists turn to page 112



Vp4 Green flowerpot table lamp by Verner Panton, 35.9 (h) x 23cm (dia), £249, other colours available, Rume.

GET THE LOOK

Mix stripes, plains and patterns together to create Nicola's eclectic living room



Napoli large cream shaggy rug, made from polyester, 160 (w) x 230cm (d), £429, smaller size available, Dwell.



Boeme Dahlia printed cushion featuring tropical flowers and bold colours, linen/velvet mix, 50 (w) x 50cm (d), £75, Heal's.

PH&I LOVES



Designers Guild Varese cushion in Leaf with Franchini Stripe silk trim, 45 (w) x 60cm (d), £59, John Lewis.



Valerio polished steel and glass side table in the style of Eileen Gray, 70 (h) x 55 (w) x 55cm (d), £195, Out There Interiors.



Aissa two-and-a-half seat sofa in Coyote Navajo stripes, 86 (h) x 178 (w) x 95.5cm (d), £1,610, Sofa.com.

FEATURE SOPHIE WARREN-SMITH

IN THE GARDEN

Gardening products, useful buys and practical ideas for your outside space



A light touch

This table and chairs, £375 for the set, is the latest addition to Cox & Cox's Provence range. Ideal for smaller spaces and casual outdoor dining, it's made from painted pine in a subtle grey, which you should bring indoors for long periods of inclement weather. Also pictured is the Provence butler's tray table, £55, Fiesta string lights, £25, rusty brazier, £80, and outdoor floor lamp, £100. www.coxandcox.co.uk.



POTS OF STYLE

Herbs are so easy to grow in pots in the garden, and we love this decorative collection of planters from Dobbies. Swirl set of three hanging pots, £12.99; tiered three-shelf planter, £19.99; wooden barrel (44cm dia), £19.99; zinc planter, 26cm (dia), £17.99; silver watering can pot, £3.99. 0131 561 6406, www.dobbies.com.



A touch of pizazz

You won't lose these vibrant accessories, with their vintage-inspired designs, in the garden. New to the Wild & Wolf V&A collection, the Palamos range includes a watering can, £34.95, and trowel, £19.95. You may also like the Kite Strings string-in-a-tin, £9.95. www.wildandwolf.com.

JOBS TO BE DONE

1 Keep up with the watering in hot, dry spells: daily for containers and a thorough soaking once or twice a week for the garden. Camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons need sufficient water now to produce flowers next spring.

Divide bearded irises and replant. 3 Pick sweet peas regularly to encourage further flowering – they look beautiful displayed in a vase. 4 Fill gaps in the border with planted up containers for instant effect. 5 Take cuttings from tender plants, herbaceous perennials and shrubs.



How beautiful are these colourful hand-painted planters made from recycled car tyres by the Fair Trade artisans of Noah's Ark in India? Set of two pots, £18, by Traidcraft, available at www.notonthehighstreet.com.

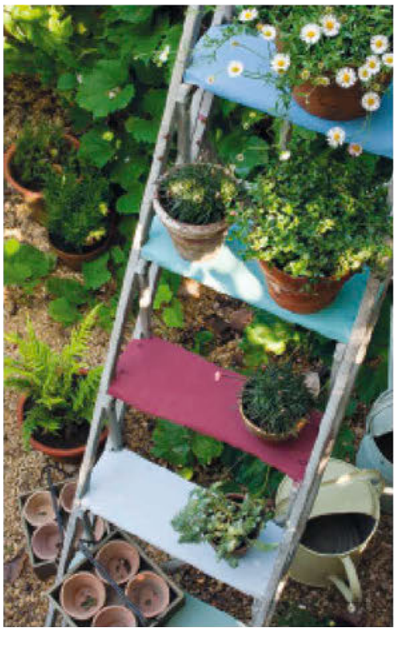
FEATURE LEIGH CLAPP



For a light, portable barbecue, this small charcoal bucket design is just what you need. With a convenient carry handle, you can take it anywhere for an impromptu meal with family or friends. Available in orange and blue (both shown), plus turquoise, yellow, cream or navy-blue, it costs £8 from www.tesco.com.

PAINT YOUR GARDEN

Spruce up your garden furniture, pots, walls or accessories with Chalk Paint by Annie Sloan. Suitable for all types of wood (apart from teak), metal, concrete, plastic and terracotta, you simply leave it to dry overnight and then wipe it down with a damp cloth before exposing it to rain. Celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Chalk Paint range comprises 33 decorative and historic colours, which can combine well to provide an even larger palette. It comes in a 1 ltr pot and costs £18.95; tester pots are also available for £6.45. From Annie Sloan stockists and online at www.anniesloan.com.





Elegant dining

Turn your garden into a luxurious outdoor dining room by pairing the sculptural Callanish reconstituted stone dining table with six Greenwich galvanised wrought-iron chairs. It's available as a set for £4,790, or pieces are available individually: table, £2,600, which will seat 10 people; and chairs, £365 each. 0844 815 7380, www.okadirect.com.

WHAT'S ON

July dates for your diary

- **RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show** 30 June – 5 July. Celebrating 25 years, this will be a special event, with show gardens, floral displays, shopping, plant advice, cookery demonstrations and much more for garden lovers of all ages. Tickets from £19. www.rhs.org.uk/hamptoncourt.
- **RHS Flower Show Tatton Park** 22-26 July. Show gardens, floral marquee, talks, shops, stalls – packed with inspiration for your garden. Tickets from £20.50. www.rhs.org.uk/tatton.
- **The Garden Show at Loseley Park** 24-26 July. Specialist nurseries exhibiting with the growers on hand to help you choose the best plants for your conditions, plus plant doctors, garden and homeware, food and wine. Adults £7; children, £3. www.loseleypark.co.uk.

3 OF THE BEST OUTDOOR WALL LIGHTS

For stockists turn to page 112



Coach lantern, available in a range of finishes, £240.50, Jim Lawrence.



Belfast outdoor light in zinc-plated, powder-coated steel, £75, Garden Trading.



Handmade outdoor wall lantern in brass, from £270, Fritz Fryer.



ALL ABOARD

It was love at first sight for Tony and Jo Williams when they saw Old Droxford train station and recognised the potential to improve its surrounding garden

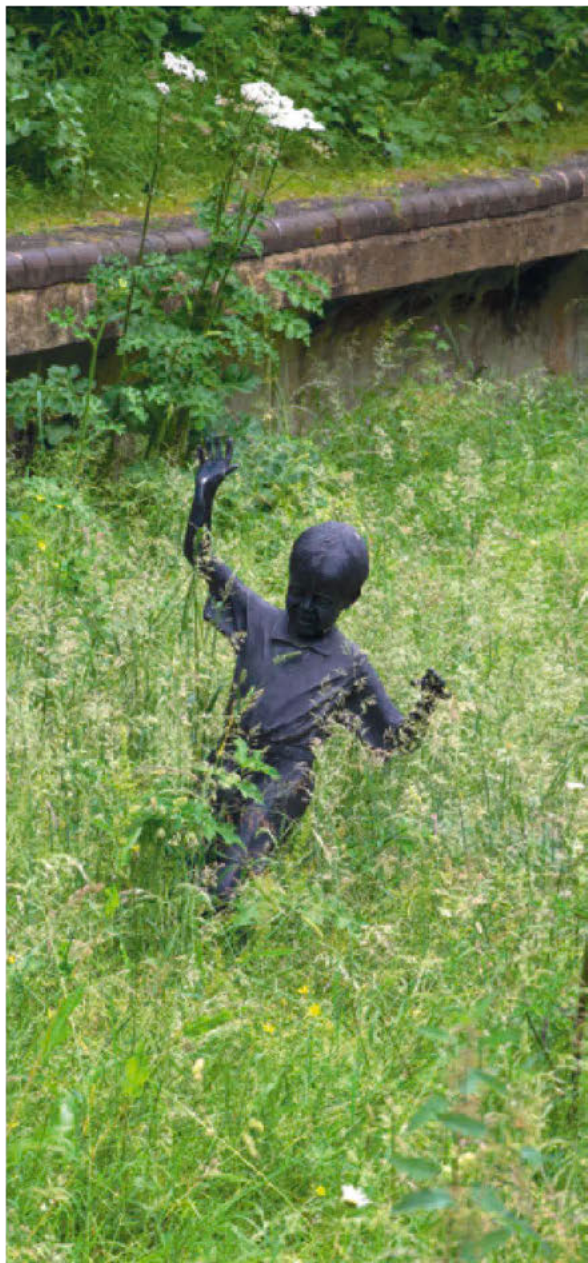













2009

'My style is informal with plenty of colour. I tend to plant where I find a space rather than according to a strict plan. This causes some ghastly mistakes, but also happy surprises'

When Tony and Jo Williams spotted an advertisement in the local paper for the sale of a former railway station, they immediately fell in love with the property and jumped at the chance to buy it. Built in 1903 in an art nouveau style, Old Droxford Station had been converted into a residential home in 1984. 'It is great fun to live in such a quirky house that still retains so many original features,' says Tony. 'The ladies' waiting room is our family room, the booking office and waiting room is the living room, and the ticket office with original ticket hatch, counter and cupboard is my study.' After rebuilding the signal box as guest accommodation, and converting an old wagon into a tool shed, the couple augmented the scene with internet finds such as original London and South Western Railway lampposts, signs and coat hooks.

Although Tony had no interest in trains before they bought the station in 2008, it piqued an interest to research the background and led to him publishing a book, *A History of Droxford Station, A Story Through 1,500 Years*. Passenger service finished in 1955, goods in 1962, and in the 1970s the track became a bridleway. There is also an illustrious part the station played in history before D-Day as the base for Winston Churchill during his visit to the leaders of Operation Overlord.

EXPANDING THE LANDSCAPE

Since buying the house, Tony has greatly improved the garden, working mostly with the existing layout. This has been a downsizing project, as the couple's previous property was a Georgian and medieval farmhouse where they created a Victorian-style kitchen garden, winter and summer gardens, as well as informal areas. When the couple took over Old Droxford Station, the train track had been planted as a wildflower garden, with native orchids in summer. 'We have supplemented the wildflowers with poppies, yellow rattle and cowslips, and removed or restrained some more invasive species,' says Tony. 'Having tried in the past to grow a wildflower garden I realised it is not as easy as it looks, so I was delighted to inherit and develop this. In the past I underestimated how poor the soil needs to be for wildflowers



to thrive. If you don't impoverish the soil, if necessary by taking off the top layer, you won't get a wildflower garden at all, but a long grass lawn with a few common weeds.'

An expanse of lawn on the other side of the track, edged with garden beds overgrown with ivy and horizontal yew, needed to be cleared, but there were many specimen trees that have been retained, including *metasequoia* (dawn redwood), *Catalpa bignonioides* and maple. Beyond the herbaceous garden beds the land slopes down to a flat area that was covered in Tarmac, and Tony has transformed this into a kitchen garden with raised beds and a greenhouse. 'More than 200 railway sleepers to reflect the site's history were brought in to create the raised beds. We then added 100 tons of topsoil, compost, chippings and manure, planted an orchard and redid all the beds,' he explains.

CHALLENGES MET

The garden is built on solid chalk with a thin topsoil and some frost pocket areas, so it has been a learning curve for Tony to discover the plants >>

Previous page The view across the platform to the herbaceous border beyond. **Opposite page, clockwise from top left** Yellow spires of foxtail lilies contrast with clumps of dainty mauve *Campanula lactiflora* and stately blue delphiniums. The greenhouse is invaluable to the success of the garden. A sculpture adds a touch of whimsy among the wildflower meadow along the old track. Flowers adorn the couple's favourite dining spot, looking out over the garden from the platform. Annual poppies add splashes of colour. A stack of old cases is in keeping with the station's past.

FEATURE AND PHOTOGRAPHY LEIGH CLAPP



Splashes of glowing sunshine from racemes of eremurus stand out against the foil of blue delphiniums.

'Quite a few plants are grown on for a year or two before planting out as that has made them more robust and reduced the failure rate we had in the early years'

with the best tolerance to lime. Some of the very best choices that he would recommend for chalk soils are the hardy pinks, such as Dianthus 'Tickled Pink', 'Coral Reef', 'Pink Fizz' and 'Doris', as well as soft lilac *Campanula lactiflora* and dainty phlox with their small, star-shaped flowers.

After clearing and extending the garden beds, and edging them with attractive Edwardian rope-edged tiles, they were planted out in 2010, only to be hit by a very cold and wet winter, which has resulted in plants needing to be added to each year since. 'Quite a few plants are grown on for a year or two before planting out as that has made them more robust and reduced the failure rate we had in the early years,' explains Tony. 'The combination of chalk and frost has also held back the orchard, which has been very slow to establish, but is now making decent progress at last. Everywhere I have lived I have struggled to create an orchard so hope I will be successful this time. Fortunately the figs love it against the south-facing wall.

'The front garden is a particular challenge as it is very dark, being effectively in a cutting surrounded by mature trees of beech, ash and yew. Hence we have plenty of hellebores and spring flowers before the trees come into leaf and then hostas and shade-tolerant plants for the duration of the summer,' comments Tony. Other challenging areas are the banks that continue to be worked on, which are planted with wildflowers that are gradually establishing. The latest project is replanting the bank by the side of the house with primroses, snowdrops and foxgloves. 'It will take a few years to get right as the bank is so steep I have to lie a ladder on it to position the plants,' Tony explains. Two paddocks have also been regenerated as wildflower meadows to blend in to the surrounding woodland. 'The resulting garden is now a number of distinct parts – the pond and wild area at the bottom, including an insect hotel made of pallets; the orchard with wildflowers underneath; the veg and cutting garden, with one raised bed devoted to sweet peas that we cut from May to September; the formal garden with large beds and specimen trees; and the railway track and paddocks as wildflower meadows,' Tony explains.

A JEWELLED PALETTE

In summer the scene is full of eclectic colour blends, oxeye daisies and grasses dancing in the breeze, and an abundance of beautifully tended produce. In the flower garden, Penstemon 'Garnet', Monarda 'Cambridge Scarlet', 'Pacific Giant' delphiniums, rudbeckias, eremurus (foxtail lily) and *Dianthus barbatus* 'Indian Carpet Mixed' billow in the long border.

'My style is informal with plenty of colour,' says Tony. 'I tend to plant where I find a space rather than according to a strict plan. This causes some ghastly mistakes, but also happy surprises. I will nurture plants to get them established but after that they need to look after themselves, so quite a few do not survive that regime. In my view a garden should be enjoyable and uplifting, rather than too formal or rigid. Sometimes this works >>







3 essential plants…

for creating an informal herbaceous bed

From left: Alstroemeria Very versatile plant; flowers continuously through summer and will grow in different situations. Plant in a sheltered spot in sun or part shade and in well-drained soil. £8.50, www.alstroemeriaselect.co.uk. **Delphinium** Towers of blooms in blue, mauve, white, pink and even yellow. Grow in well-drained soil, in sun or part shade. They make good cut flowers. £8, www.blackmore-langdon.com. **Eremurus** Make a bold statement with their statuesque spires. Hardy perennials; plant in a sunny, warm and sheltered spot in free-draining soil. They don't like to be crowded. £6.99 for one tuber, www.crocus.co.uk.









GROWING ADVICE FROM TONY

- Be prepared to experiment both with different plants and different colours.
- Once you find the plants that work, bring in various varieties and propagate them – it is so cheap and easy and gives you a sense of 'owning' your garden.
- Good gardens evolve and reflect their owners' likes, dislikes and personalities.



and other times not, so it is necessary to learn from successes and failures along the way.

'The kitchen garden is more regimented, but as we mix a cutting garden and vegetables we have plenty of colour, including sunflowers,' explains Tony. Neat rows of salad crops sit protected under nets, beetroot stems gleam in the sunlight and scarlet runner beans scramble up tripods. Tony uses good practices to get the most from the productive and ornamental plants, while also attracting many beneficial insects. 'We harvest most of our own water in three oak water butts. I will water plants to get them established but after that it is more random. As the soil is chalk it dries quickly, so every winter we add compost, manure, chippings and leaf mould to reduce water loss. We add seaweed, blood and bone meal, but not much else. We avoid insecticides but in very wet periods we have to resort to slug pellets to save the delphiniums, dahlias and veg,' he explains.

Tony tries to spend at least one day a week in the garden all year round and does most of the structural work himself, as well as propagating several hundred plants a year from cuttings or seed, both for use in the garden and to sell on the National Gardens Scheme open day. Each garden opening brings surprises – last year, for example, they met the fireman on the last passenger train through Droxford. Through the season there is additional help one day a week and a lad comes in to do the lawns and hedges.

Sitting on the platform, his favourite place to overlook the garden, and summing up his gardening style, Tony describes himself as 'a bit of a magpie', taking inspiration from various sources, adapting a bit of a mix-and-match approach and hoping it works. 'Look at other gardens and books but don't copy. Experiment, and if it doesn't work you can change it, but this is the fun of creating a garden,' he says.

Above, clockwise from top left Collecting water and gardening sustainably are important elements to Tony. The butts are lined up ready to use outside the greenhouse in the vegetable garden. *Sisyrinchium striatum* is a great choice for a sunny border; deadhead after flowering if you don't want it to self-seed freely. Raised beds made from railway sleepers – a nod to the garden's past – are planted with crops. Astrantia major has compact umbels of tiny flowers with rosettes of showy bracts. Rosa 'Lady Emma Hamilton' has a tangerine centre to paler apricot tones on the edge.

OPENING TIME

Old Droxford Station, Soberton, Hampshire SO32 3QU • Sunday 12 July (11am to 4pm) • Admission £3.50; children free • Plant sale, tea and cake (www.ngs.org.uk).

beautiful gardens deserve beautiful furniture











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C F A VOYSEY (1857–1941) *A rare pair of oak armchairs originally designed for "The Homestead" Frinton-on-Sea, in 1902.*

At Home

Kitchen news · Buyers' guide · Bedroom special · Bathroom news



KITCHEN NEWS



Shades of sky-blue combine with nautical influences for a timelessly stylish look in your kitchen this summer.

BUYERS' GUIDE

With the summer holidays upon us, keep up with the increased washing with a new appliance and must-have laundry accessories – our expert reveals all you need to know.



BATHROOM NEWS

Cool looks for summer bathing and coastal-themed accessories to welcome a sense of the seaside into your home.



CLEVER DETAILS

A bespoke kitchen will ensure the best use of your space, as this kitchen by Rencraft shows. The island unit provides informal seating, while a traditional chimney-style mantel hides a modern extractor motor and there is a raised section of worktop behind the Aga that provides a useful shelf. Kitchen prices start from £16,000. 01732 762682, www.rencraft.co.uk.



IN THE KITCHEN

Choose shades of sky-blue and nautical influences for a timelessly stylish kitchen



Ultimate storage

A dresser is a kitchen staple, capable of hiding away all that clutter you don't want to be seen, while providing the perfect place to display your prettiest china. We love this Chichester 4ft open-rack dresser, from £1,695, by Neptune. With its classical proportions and elegant design crafted from poplar wood, it's a forever piece of furniture. Shown here in Blakeney Blue, it can be hand-painted in a choice of 30 colours. 01793 427450, www.neptune.com.



HEAT STORAGE

A traditionally styled electric heat storage cooker from Everhot is one of the most efficient models available, as well as being straightforward to install and ultra-easy to switch on and off. The Everhot 90i has a grill, induction hob and two ovens for roasting and slow-cooking, as well as a two-zone induction hob under the right-hand lid. It measures 890 (w) x 600 (d) x 900 (h), costs £6,345, and also comes in Sage Green. 01453 890018, www.everhot.co.uk.



We love this snap-fit lolly mould, £9.99 for a set of six boats; rockets also available, by Cuisipro from www.phakitchen essentials.co.uk.

Plastic fantastic

Melamine tableware isn't just for picnics – it's a good idea to have a stock of it in the kitchen too. Soft shades of blue are a good choice and can be mixed in with any plain white or cream tableware you already have. Teal washed-glaze-effect plates, from £2.50 each, from Tesco, www.tesco.com.



3 OF THE BEST PENDANT LIGHTS

Make a lighting statement over the table or breakfast bar with these ideas



Cadogan three-light pendant, supplied with a chain and suspension wire, £245, Garden Trading at Amara.



SuperLiving Dynamo pendants light in grey, blue and cream, 19cm (h), £38 each, Eclect Design.



Grey Splatter hand-painted metal cone shade with rope flex and metal fittings, 25cm (dia), £45, Heal's.

For stockists turn to page 112

FEATURE LINDA PARKER

HUSKY

Baby, it's cool inside

Piano Black shown. Size (HxWxD): 840x550x550mm.

Also available in Radiant Red and Vintage Ivory.



Radiant Red shown.

Love those great retro refrigerator lines, but stuck for kitchen space? The Husky Retro has all the style points you want, yet will slip under any standard worktop height.

You'll adore those clean, curved lines of the reversible door with its generous storage space. Inside you'll find tempered adjustable glass shelves with shimmering silver trim, salad drawer and chromed wine rack, all this plus an A+ energy rating.

To view the full range and order online today, visit

husky-retail.com

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HUSKY

Don't get in a spin...

Choose the machine that suits your needs from our pick of the best models available



Your at-a-glance guide

- Since 2014, washing machines are rated A+++, A++, A+ or A (which is the lowest rating) for their energy efficiency and the amount of water they use. Tumble dryers are rated A+++ to G. As a rule of thumb, the more energy-efficient the model, the pricier it is likely to be.
- Spin speed is important for the promise of drier clothes – look for appliances that offer 1400/1600 rpm for a washing machine and 1600 rpm for a tumble dryer. However, bear in mind that the faster the spin speed the noisier the machine is likely to be.
- Check the decibel level – 48 dB is considered to be quiet. Remember that large, spacious kitchens with lots of glass and tiles will make a noisy machine seem even louder.
- Shop around before you buy. Look online for the best prices – as they can vary dramatically.

Miele W1 Prestige washing machine (WMV960WPS), and Miele T1 Prestige tumble dryer (TMV840WP)

FEATURES Intuitive touch-screen displays • Customised programmes **Washing machine:** A+++ rated • 9kg capacity • 1600 rpm spin speed • Unique two-phase detergent system • Steam Smoothing option to reduce creasing • 20-minute express wash. **Tumble dryer:** A+++ rated • Unique heat pump dryer system, with up to 46% reduction in energy use compared to a condenser dryer • 9kg drum • Half-load option • Extra quiet.
PRICE Each model is £1,999.
0330 160 6600, www.miele.co.uk

Five ideas to keep washday cheerful and practical

For stockists turn to page 112



1



2



3



4

5



1. Clever storage Go for a country kitchen look with the National Trust Country Kitchen collection. The laundry powder tin measures 18 (w) x 15.5 (d) x 23cm (h), comes with a scoop and costs £16.99, from Creative Tops. **2. Washing guide** Remind the family what the symbols mean with the framed Laundry Room Plaque, 69 (h) x 55cm (w), £30, Marquis & Dawe. **3. Stylish stripes** Buy a pair of laundry bags to keep colours and whites separate, also in red, £7, Tiger. **4. Throw in the towel** A few extra tea towels are always handy in the utility room and these 100% cotton designs are nice enough to keep out on display. Avocets (left) and Oystercatchers (right), £10 each, Coastal Home. **5. In the bag** Make putting out the washing a little brighter with the Peggy Peg Bag, £18.50, Clare Loves.

FEATURE LINDA PARKER



Best for: *Washing and drying*
AEG L75670WD

FEATURES Judged 'Best Buy' by *Which?* magazine • A rated • 7kg washing load • 4kg drying load • 1600 rpm spin speed • 16 programmes, including Wool Plus for delicate items • Time saver option to reduce cycle by up to 60% • LCD display • Delay start of up to 20 hours.
PRICE £579.
03445 611611, www.aeg.co.uk



Best for: *Integrated washing*
Caple WM12003

FEATURES A++ rated • 6kg capacity • 11 programmes, including 15-minute fast wash and pre-wash programmes • 1200 spin speed • Delay start timer • Maximum sound level of 57 dB • Useful 'time left' display so you know when the cycle will finish.
PRICE Around £500.
0117 938 1900, www.caple.co.uk



Best for: *Good-value washing*
Zanussi LINDO300 ZWF91283W

FEATURES Large-capacity model • A+++ rated • 1200 rpm spin speed • 9kg capacity • Load size sensor to work out the right time, energy and water needed for each wash • Digital display • Child lock • Eight programmes, including Duvets and Cotton Economy.
PRICE £330.
03445 612612, www.zanussi.co.uk





Best for: *Retro style*
Smeg WMFABNE1

FEATURES Part of the colourful FAB range of fridge-freezers and dishwashers • Designed to be freestanding – it's dimensions are 89 (h) x 59.5 (w) x 65cm (d) • 15 programmes, including a superfast 15-minute wash • A rated • 7kg capacity • 1400 rpm spin speed • FlexiTime settings to reduce wash times • Timer delay • Half-load function • 78 dB noise level • Also comes in pale blue, cream and pink.
PRICE Around £780.
0844 557 9907, www.smeguk.com



Best for: *Eco & allergy features*
Baumatic BWMi1472DN1

FEATURES Fully integrated washing machine with full-height door • A+ rated • 1400 rpm spin speed • 7kg capacity • Digital LED display • Delay start of up to 24 hours • Cold wash function, which allows any programme to be run as a cold wash • Eco 20°C wash using 40% less energy consumption than a standard 40°C cotton wash • Allergy care option uses more water for rinsing and ensuring detergent is fully dissolved.
PRICE Around £365.
0118 931 1110, www.baumatic.co.uk



Best for: *Adding steam*
LG F14A7FDSA5

FEATURES Uses steam to offer enhanced cleaning performance • TrueSteam system can refresh items in 20 minutes • A+++ energy rated • 1400 rpm spin speed • Extra-large door • 9kg capacity to cope with duvets and curtains • 14 programmes, including wool and delicate wash • Direct Drive system means it's quieter than many machines, and has less vibration • Timer delay • LED display • Time remaining indicator.
PRICE £613.
www.johnlewis.com



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WIN Carpetright flooring and beds

One lucky reader will receive vouchers from Carpetright to the value of £500 to spend in store on flooring and beds

The monochrome look is a strong trend this season, so give your home a new lease of life with a flooring update. This theme will inject character and individuality into your interior space, and is easy to customise to suit your needs.

Offering a welcome departure from the graphic black and white colour scheme of previous seasons, the new pared-back monochrome is a warmer and more restful interpretation of the trend. From the whitewashed feel of a wood-effect laminate to a visual mixing of textured surfaces in various shades of grey, this is a look that provides the perfect backdrop for your decor style.

Allow your flooring to set the scene and then build your look on top. Team with strong colour accents or keep it neutral – the possibilities to make this trend your own are endless. Bringing that elusive combination of being highly practical yet streamlined and striking, this new aesthetic promises effortless chic every time.

Carpetright offers a great range of flooring, including carpet, laminate, vinyl and a brand new rug collection. It also stocks a fantastic range of beds and mattresses in a whole host of different styles, so there is something to suit every bedroom and price range.

For more inspiration, head to the new and recently launched Carpetright website to help guide you through the most up-to-date designs and latest trends. Whether you are looking for a new carpet for your stairs or vinyl for the kitchen, you can now search the site on your PC, tablet or mobile at www.carpetright.co.uk.

ENTER ONLINE BY VISITING: www.periodhomesandinteriors.com Closing date: 31 July 2015

Terms & conditions Entries close at midnight on 31 July 2015. The pirze draw is not open to employees of Carpetright or Kelsey Publishing Group. The prize is a £500 voucher to spend in a Carpetright store and can be redeemed on flooring and beds at the prices shown on the day of purchase. The prize is non-transferable and there is no cash alternative. The draw is final and no correspondence will be entered into. Open to residents of the UK aged over 18. Only one entry permitted per person; no bulk entries will be accepted. The winner will be chosen from all correct entries received by the closing date of 31 July 2015. Reasonable efforts will be made to contact a winner. Failure to respond, or failure to meet the eligibility requirements, may result in forfeiture of the prize. If they cannot be contacted, or are unable to comply with these terms and conditions, the promoter reserves the right to offer the prize to the next eligible entrant drawn at random. We reserve the right to cancel the promotion if circumstances change that are beyond our control. By entering you agree to be bound by all the rules and agree that your surname and county may be released if you win. By providing personally identifiable information when entering this promotion, you are agreeing that we may use it to provide you with on-going information about our products and services, although you can unsubscribe at any time, if you wish to do so. Period Homes & Interiors is a Kelsey Media brand. Kelsey Media will only ever use your information in line with its Multi Layered Privacy Notice. For full details, visit www.kelsey.co.uk. If you have any questions please ask, as submitting your data indicates your consent, until you choose otherwise, that we may contact you about products and services that we believe to be of relevance to you.

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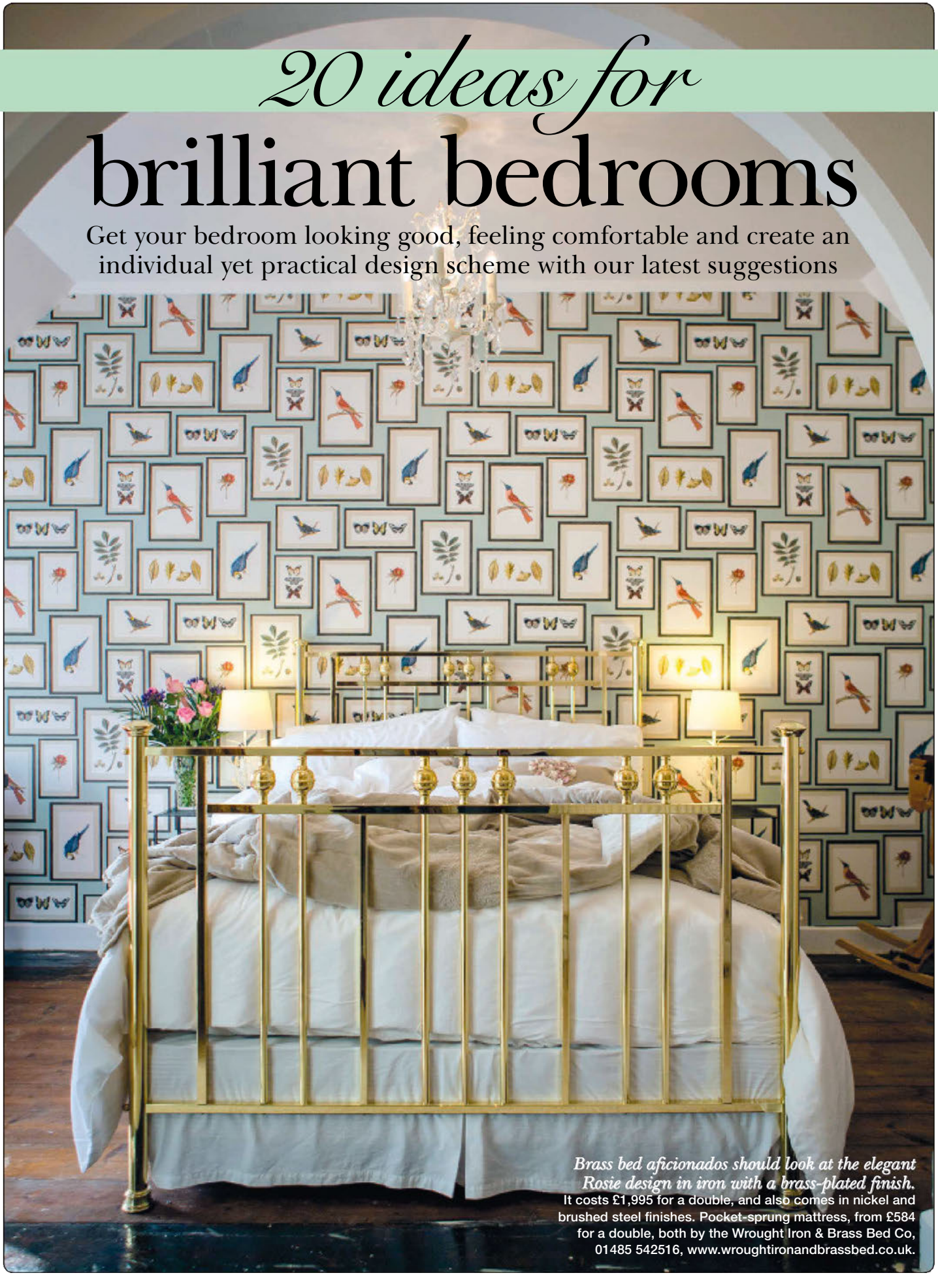
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20 ideas for brilliant bedrooms

Get your bedroom looking good, feeling comfortable and create an individual yet practical design scheme with our latest suggestions



Brass bed aficionados should look at the elegant Rosie design in iron with a brass-plated finish. It costs £1,995 for a double, and also comes in nickel and brushed steel finishes. Pocket-sprung mattress, from £584 for a double, both by the Wrought Iron & Brass Bed Co, 01485 542516, www.wroughtironandbrassbed.co.uk.

>>

FEATURE LINDA PARKER

Beds





▲ A DIVINE DIVAN

Keep the look simple and sophisticated with an upholstered divan base and button-quilted headboard. The Windsor Memory Wool 2800 divan bed and Memory Wool pocket-sprung mattress costs from £569 from the Heritage collection by Rest Assured. Shown here in Slate Grey, it is also available in Ebony, Tan and Sandstone. 01282 851111, www.rest-assured.co.uk.

▲ HIGH AND MIGHTY

A four-poster is a statement piece of furniture that allows the room itself to become an understated backdrop – keep decoration to a minimum and choose pale walls to let the framework take pride of place. Flores king-size four-poster bed, comes in Charcoal (pictured), Grey and Cream, £1,350; Milko pouffe, £160; screen, £850; all John Lewis, 0345 604 9049, www.johnlewis.com.



PH&I *tip*

Always leave enough room next to the bed to allow storage drawers to open unhindered without having to shift the bedside cabinets.

◄ QUIRKY RETRO

The Unsworth bed, designed by Conran, is a modern classic in the making, and would be a good investment for a period home. In solid and veneered oak, it costs from £749 for a double. It's shown with the striking Eve printed bedding in green, from £29.50 for a double duvet, available in up to super-king size, all from Marks & Spencer. 0333 014 8000, www.marksandspencer.com.



SIT UP STRAIGHT ▸
A high-backed upholstered bedhead is a luxurious choice, especially if you like to sit up in bed reading, and the wrap-around wings are perfect for propping up extra pillows. Camelia double divan, shown covered in Linwood Oatmeal linen, £1,185, by Button & Sprung. There are dozens of fabrics to choose from, while mattresses all have natural fillings. 0333 201801, www.buttonandsprung.com.

Upholstered beds are very fashionable, while retaining a traditional look that's perfect for period homes



▲BEAUTIFULLY BUTTONED
One of the most inviting-looking beds around is the wonderfully named Squidgel bed from Loaf. It has oak legs and comes in double, king and super-king sizes, priced from £1,295. Shown here in Thatch house fabric, other fabrics available include wool, washed and brushed cotton, vintage linen and velvet. Mattresses are from £545, with 1400 springs in the bestselling king-size model. 0845 468 0698, www.loaf.com.



▲ORNATE PATTERNS
The Reine de France upholstered bed is a new addition to the ornate range of decorative beds at Simon Horn. Classic designs include Louis XV (pictured here), sleigh, four-poster and Empire styles, in a choice of cane, mirrored and painted finishes. It's shown here upholstered in Kalamkari fabric in Indigo-Red, from £4,835 for a super-king size, and can be custom-made in the fabric of your choice. 020 7731 3555, www.simonhorn.com.

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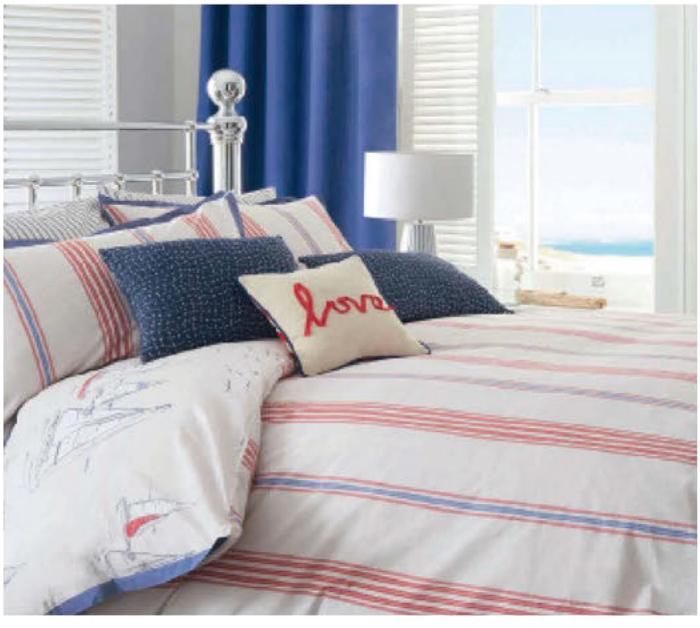


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Bedlinen





▲SEASHORE LOOKS
With so many floral, botanical and bird bedlinen designs around at the moment, it's refreshing to see that stripes are still in vogue, and they're a good choice for when you're tired of frills and flowers. Love ribbon cushion, £10; Red and Blue Texture stripe bed set, from £35 for a double duvet cover and two pillowcases; all Next, 0333 777 8000, www.next.co.uk.

Every square in Clarissa Hulse's Block Patchwork design has a story – from branches found on Caribbean shores to dill flowers collected in Wiltshire

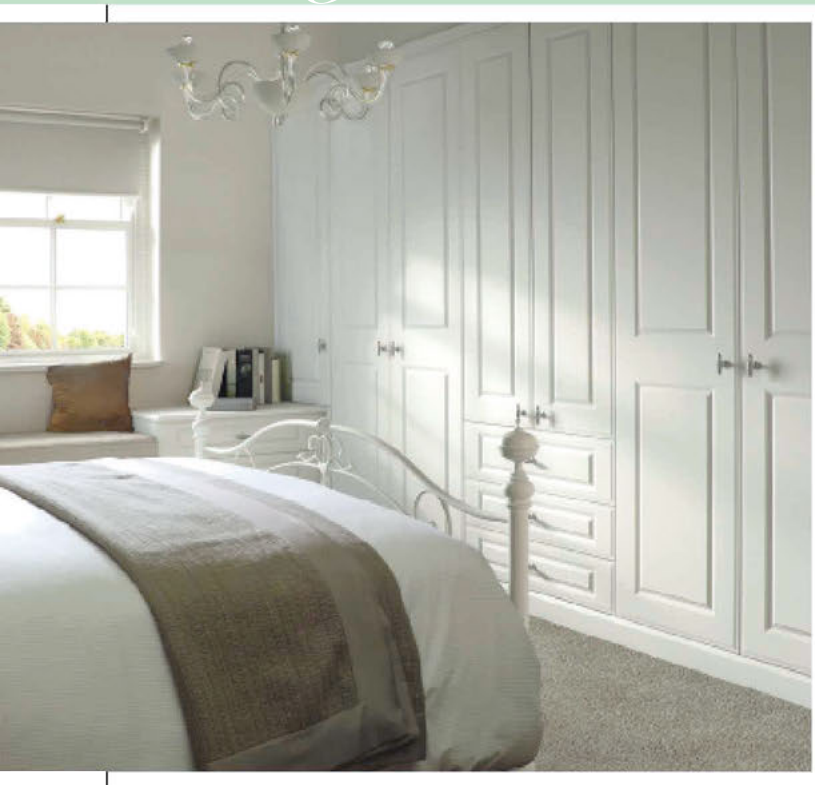
▲ SKY BLUE STYLE
For a fresh, classic scheme that's perfect for summer, go for white walls, white-painted floorboards and clear, crisp shades of china blue. Add a mix or collectables for an individual look. China Rose Essential bed set, £19.99 for a double; Santorini Blue Ombre Essential bed set, £19.99 for a double; textured white knit throw, £14.99; all Bhs, 0344 411 6000, www.bhs.co.uk.



◄ NATURAL INSPIRATIONS
Designer Clarissa Hulse is inspired by the detail of natural forms, and many of her textiles and fabrics are decorated with fern and leaf designs. The Block Patchwork Pebble duvet set comes in muted shades, which are an excellent choice for a soothing bedroom scheme, made in 100% cotton sateen with a 200-thread count for a luxurious feel. Available in single to super-king sizes, a double duvet cover is £65; a pair of pillowcases is £20. 020 7226 7055, www.clarissahulse.com.

>>

Fitted furniture





▲ PALE & INTERESTING

The Verona range in White from Caple has smooth, tactile vinyl-wrap door fronts with squared and raised panels, soft-close doors and metal-sided drawer boxes, which adds up to a long-lasting piece of furniture that will stay looking good for years to come. Other furniture styles are available in beech, walnut, cream and oyster finishes to suit all colour schemes. From £301 for a 600mm base unit. 0117 938 1900, www.caple.co.uk.

▲ CLASSIC PROPORTIONS

John Lewis of Hungerford bedrooms come in five classic styles, including Artisan, pictured. All schemes are bespoke and designed to fit and adapt to any space. The drawer boxes are solid oak and the designers specialise in making clever use of corners, and adapting rooms into walk-in wardrobe spaces. Available in 80 colours, expect to pay from £5,000 for a bespoke fitted bedroom. 0700 278 4726, www.john-lewis.co.uk.

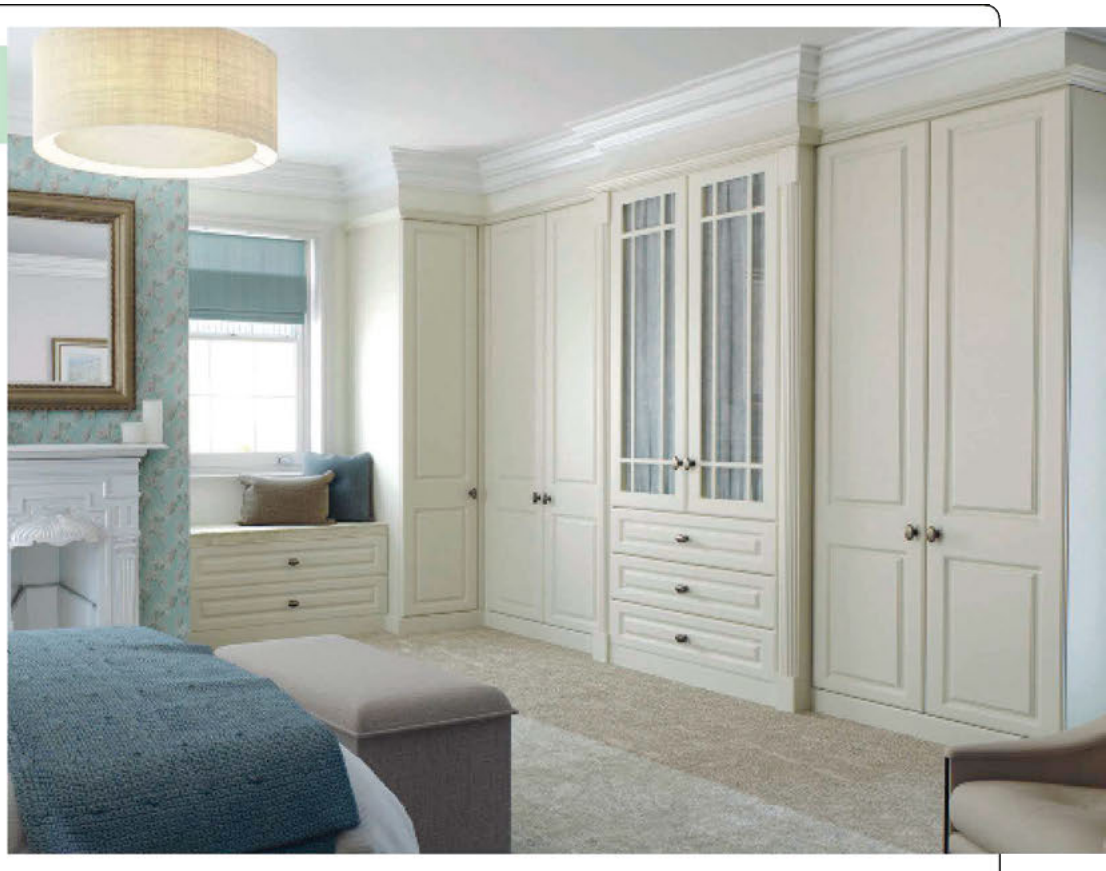


PH&I *says...*

If you have a loft or attic bedroom, fitted furniture is by far the best use of your space.

◄ REFINED DESIGN

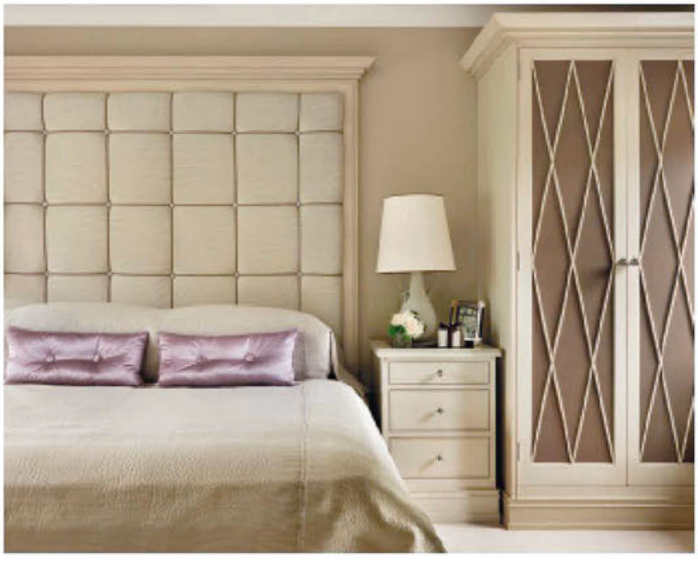
The Harpsden fitted furniture from Hammonds is perfectly suited to bedrooms, but is also great for walk-in wardrobes or dressing rooms, and can be supplied with sliding doors. Shown here in Ivory, it also comes in White, Stone, Light Praline and Rich Praline, plus finishes in real wood veneers. Prices from £2,500. 0800 021 4360, www.hammonds-uk.com.



PRIDE OF PLACE ▶
Symmetry is important when designing a fitted bedroom, and too many similar cupboard doors can look uninspiring. Consider including a linen press within the design that can be used to store bulky items like quilts and blankets. This is the Florence range in Ivory, with Antique Oval knobs; plain, mirrored and glass doors are all available. From £1,500 by Trend Interiors, 0800 028 4466, www.trendinteriors.co.uk.

'There is no wasted space as our full-height wardrobes, linen press, wide range of chests, drawers and bedside cabinets all allow a layout to be tailored to fit your bedroom perfectly, whatever its shape or size'

Graham Jones, Sales & Marketing Director, Trend Interiors



▲ LUXURY MATERIALS
A bedroom designed by Smallbone can include a beautiful selection of materials, such as faux Shagreen for the door panels, combined with hand-painted and uniquely finished timber details, and antiqued silver-leaf mirrors. Features can include shoe and accessory trays and glazed cabinets, while handles can be made of glass, polished nickel and mother of pearl. From £18,000 for a dressing room or bedroom. 020 7589 5998, www.smallbone.co.uk.



▲ DARKER TONES
Midsomer is an elegant painted bedroom collection from Crown Imperial in pastel and neutral shades, pictured here in on trend painted Brown Stone and Pure Cream, framed with matching cornices and traditional handles. Available in different heights, 21 colours plus a primed finish, the modern classic oak Shaker-style wardrobes offer a mix of hanging storage and drawers. Prices from around £575. 01227 742424, www.crown-imperial.co.uk.

>>

Extra details





▲ SUBTLE BACKGROUNDS

Choose a neutral carpet, which can act as a calming background for brighter details. This is Apollo Plus luxury stain-resistant twist pile carpet by Cormar in 100% Excellon, shown in Sea Breeze. It's suitable for heavy-duty domestic use and comes in 15 shades, priced at £17 per sq m. 01204 881234, www.cormarcarpets.co.uk.

▲ SUPER STORAGE

An organised bedroom needs chests of drawers as well as a good run of wardrobes. Try and choose at least one chest with multiple smaller drawers – it makes it easy to keep accessories all neat and tidy. Charlotte chest with off-white grained painted finish, 93 (h) x 85 (w) x 42cm (d), £199, Very, 0844 822 2321, www.very.co.uk.





▲IN THE SHADE

As lovely as it is to have a sunny bedroom, there's times when a shady retreat is required. These louvred tier-on-tier shutters from Appeal are shown here with a Bisque painted finish, and cost from £225 per sq m, including design, delivery and installation. 0800 975 5757, www.appealshading.com.

▲ A PLACE FOR EVERYTHING

A bespoke chest, dressing table or run of wardrobes is designed specifically to work within the room with regards to size, proportion and ceiling height. The William Pinkerton chest, from around £6,800, by Cue & Co, has burnt oak drawer fronts, which sit within a painted solid tulip-wood frame. 020 7731 4728, www.cueandco.com.



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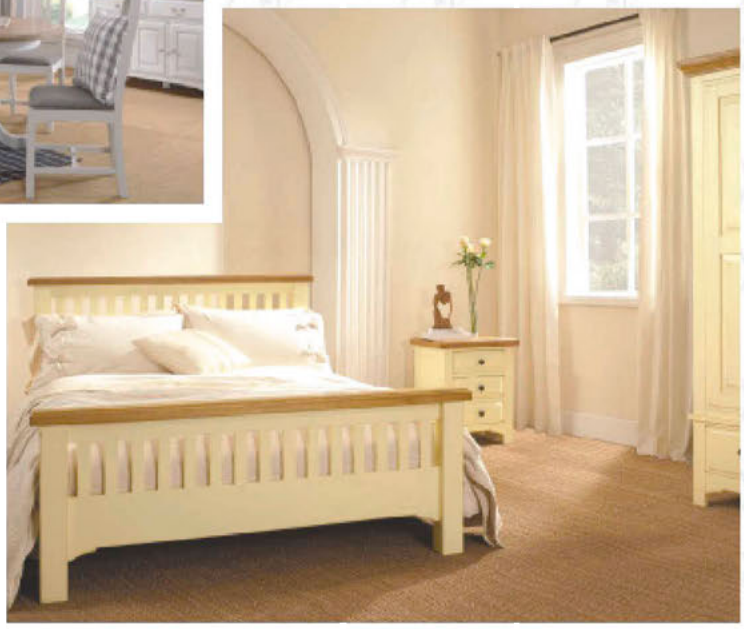
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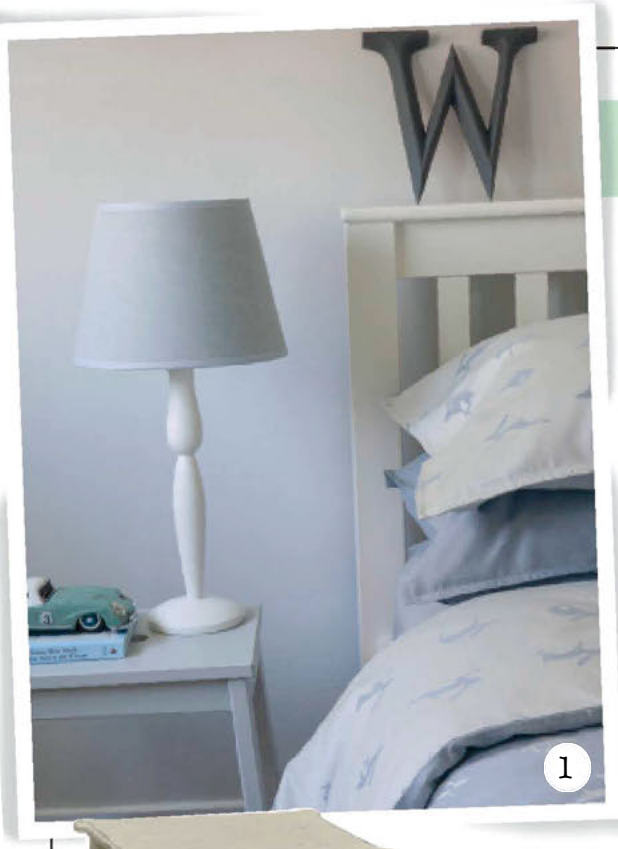
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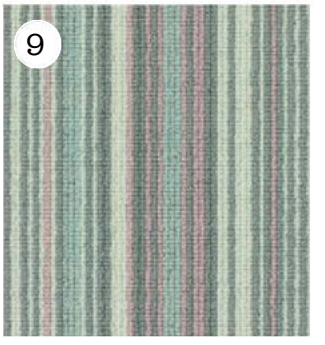




For stockists turn to page 112







1. Turned beech and white-painted table lamp with jacquard lampshade, available in four colours, £79; shown with Running Hare blue reversible duvet cover, £75; and pillowcase, £24; all Harriet Hare. **2.** Pretty vintage-style clock with distressed finish, perfect for the bedside – much nicer than a flashing electronic model, £20, Bhs. **3.** Shore Birds print by Norman Wyatt, on textured watercolour paper, from £43.99 for a 61 x 46cm unframed print (a huge choice of frames is available), Art.co.uk. **4.** Anita distressed grey bedside table with elegant tapered legs, 36 (w) x 70 (h) x 36cm (d), £95, Adventino. **5.** Give a new look to simple curtains by updating the bedroom curtain poles. These are from the new Romantic range by Swish, all finished by hand. From £74.99 for a 150cm pole; pack of four curtain rings, £6.99. **6.** Ondetta decorative mirror, perfect for creating a dramatic focal point, 107cm (dia), £399, Furniture Village. **7.** Striking vintage-style letter lights, handmade in steel, the 'I' is 60 (h) x 31 (w) x 10cm (d), £300 per letter or symbol, The Vintage Letter Light Company at Amara. **8.** Orla Kiely Linear Stem cushion in Duck Egg, 45 x 45cm, includes a polyester cushion pad, £37, Amara. **9.** Biscayne striped 100% wool carpet in Marshmallow, suitable for heavy domestic use, £73 per sq m, Crucial Trading.

FEATURE LINDA PARKER

ALL THINGS COASTAL

Make-believe you're at the seaside with a few perfectly chosen accessories from George Home arranged on your bathroom window sill. Chrome lantern, £5; binoculars ornament, £8; small print vase, £4; large print vase, £12; shell ornament, £4; blue glass vase, £12. www.george.com.



IN THE BATHROOM

Add a touch of the seaside to your bathing space with shades of blue and coastal-themed accessories



Period styling

The new range of traditional showers from Burlington combines period styling with contemporary technology. This is the Stour Exposed Thermostatic Shower with dual-function brass valve featuring two independent on-off controls, central temperature control and Airburst shower head, £1,299. 0845 539 0055, www.burlingtonbathrooms.com.



Cabinet meeting

Bathroom storage doesn't get more elegant than the Dalby single vanity console. Shown with a granite top and Tuscan bowl, it costs £650 from Albion Bath Company. Double versions with either one or two bowls or a single large oval basin are also available, plus a granite splashback. 01255 831605, www.albionbathco.com.

Tip Keep granite, composite and man-made worktops gleaming with a non-smear cleaner. Black Diamond Granite Cleaner, £7.99, from Lakeland, is pH-neutral so won't damage protective sealers. www.lakeland.co.uk.

BATHING BEAUTY

The Montpelier tub, from £2,150, from The Hurlingham Bath Company, has been given a new look with a wooden roll-top edge. It's available in mahogany or oak and can be stained in any timber shade or painted in one of 4,000 colours. The cast-iron bath has a vitreous enamel exterior and is shown here in Blue Ground by Farrow & Ball. 01400 263315, www.hurlinghambaths.co.uk.





BLIND FAITH

Ingenious – a blind that doubles as a shower curtain. Made in water-resistant PVC and rust-free aluminium, the Splash blind costs from £19.95. www.blinds-2go.co.uk.

3 OF THE BEST BRIGHT ACCESSORIES

For stockists turn to page 112



Spotty padded coat hangers, perfect for hanging on the back of the bathroom door, £2 each, Tiger.



Achillea body wash from the refreshing new range by designer Kaffe Fasset, £12, Heathcote & Ivory.



White towels with colourful bobble trim, from £8 for a hand towel, Linea Home at House of Fraser.

FEATURE LINDA PARKER

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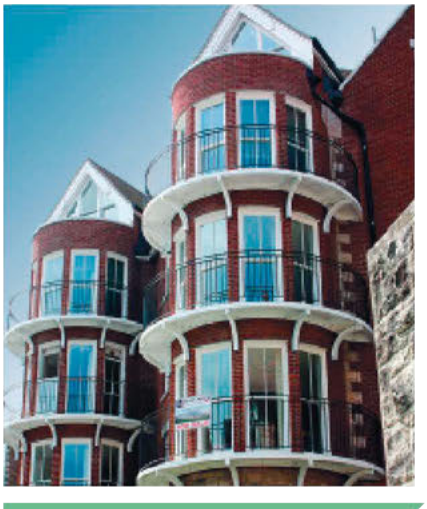
The latest home-buying and property news, facts and advice on your doorstep

Starring role

Downton Abbey *fans can get a glimpse inside one of the show's grandest homes as Byfleet Manor, home to the show's Dowager Countess Violet Crawley, goes up for sale for £3.95 million. Set in the Surrey countryside, the grand 17th-century manor house has eight bedrooms, four reception rooms, including a dining room that opens onto a sunny terrace and a panelled sitting room with an impressive fireplace, plus gardens with river frontage.*



Byfleet Manor in Surrey is on the market for £3,950,000 with Savills (01932 838000, www.savills.co.uk).



GLASS TECHNOLOGY

Pilkington's Spacia Insulating Glass Unit has a thinner profile than standard, so sits comfortably in narrow, traditional window frames such as box sashes. Spacia is a practical solution for period properties where original frames are a desirable feature and want to be retained, or for properties where restrictions don't allow upgrading from single glazing (01744 692000, www.pilkington.co.uk).

FEATURE ANDREA MANLEY

'Savvy borrowers are shopping around for better mortgage deals and are clearly aware of the competitive offerings in the market, but it's baffling why existing lenders are not incentivising them to stay.'

Andy Knee, Chief Executive, Legal Marketing Services, www.lms.com

Downward trend

The cost of home insurance has fallen again over the first quarter of this year, according to figures from the latest benchmark AA British Insurance Premium Index. The average quote for combined buildings and contents insurance fell by 3.6%, or £6, to £158.66. Janet Connor, managing director of AA Insurance, says: 'The fall is greater than expected, but insurers are competing for market share by offering introductory discounts, which is great news for consumers. However, these averages hide regional differences and homes most at risk of flooding will pay higher-than-average premiums.'

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78%

of women clean the loo before visitors come round as they feel they'll be judged by the state of their toilet.

Source Bloo, www.bloo.com

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customers is completely confident they could check the accuracy of their energy bills.

Source Which?, www.which.co.uk

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of people are more likely to turn to a YouTube video for DIY advice than consult a qualified friend or family member.

Source Towergate Insurance, www.towergateinsurance.co.uk

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PH&I *picks...* Top 20 *Dream homes*

We've found houses for sale that are brimming with period details and character

01 STRATFORD SUB CASTLE, WILTSHIRE
PRICE: £1,100,000

PROPERTY OF THE MONTH



Pittsmead, a Grade II-listed house, is situated at the end of Woodford Valley, close to where the River Avon reaches the cathedral city of Salisbury. The front of the house is grand Victorian with a symmetrical façade, sash windows, elegant reception rooms and high ceilings. In contrast, the rear is full of charm with exposed beams and a large inglenook fireplace. The drawing room is dual aspect and the windows retain their original shutters. The dining room leads through to a large kitchen/breakfast room with flagstone floor and French doors out onto the garden. There's also a utility room, large larder cupboard, cloakroom and a spacious family room with exposed beams, woodburner and doors to the garden. Situated to the rear of the property is a study with wood panelling, which opens into a conservatory. On the first floor there are five double bedrooms, a good-sized family bathroom and shower room. There are two further bedrooms on the second floor. The rear garden has a rose walk and a pond. Strutt & Parker, 01722 344058, www.struttandparker.com.





The rear of the house is full of charm with exposed beams and a large inglenook fireplace





02 FLADBURY, WORCESTERSHIRE
PRICE: £635,000

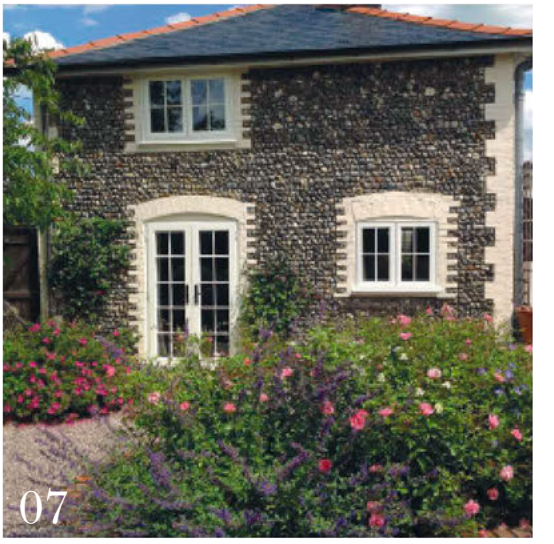
The White House is an elegant Grade II-listed property arranged over three floors. Downstairs there's a large central entrance/dining hall and two reception rooms, both with working fireplaces. Doors open from the drawing room, breakfast room, kitchen and hall onto a rear terrace. On the first floor are three bedrooms, one of which is en suite, a family bathroom and a study, while the second floor offers a further two bedrooms. Outside, there's planning permission to erect a garage. Strutt & Parker, 01608 650502, www.struttandparker.com.



FEATURE ANDREA MANLEY. **PLEASE NOTE** PRICES AND PROPERTY AVAILABILITY ARE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. VISIT THE ESTATE AGENT'S WEBSITE FOR FURTHER DETAILS.













03 STONE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE PRICE: £650,000

Norton House is a Grade II-listed country home that's filled with period features. The highlight of the ground floor is the impressive drawing room with its manorial fireplace and bay window. Upstairs is a master bedroom with dressing area and en-suite bathroom, two double bedrooms and a family bathroom. The second floor has two further bedrooms, one of which is en suite. Chappell & Matthews, 01454 660136, www.chappellandmatthews.co.uk.

04 RAGGED APPLESHAW, HAMPSHIRE PRICE: £330,000

This Grade II-listed two-bedroom semi-detached cottage dates back to the 17th century. The interior is full of character with exposed beams and a fireplace in the sitting room. There's also a recent extension providing a kitchen and first-floor bathroom. Outside there's a barn used as a workshop. Smiths Gore, 01264 774900, www.smithsgore.co.uk.

05 DEAL, KENT PRICE: £445,000

175 Middle Street is a charming, light and spacious period house with many original features, including fireplaces, stripped floors and sash windows. The property is spread over four floors, with a kitchen and dining area/family room on the lower-ground floor and doors out to the garden. On the ground floor there's a sitting room and drawing room, while the four bedrooms are spread over the top two floors. Bright & Bright, 01304 374071, www.brightandbright.co.uk.

06 HASLEMERE, SURREY PRICE: £1,000,000

Rose Cottage has been restored to combine original period details with modern family living. The sitting room features an inglenook fireplace and oversized logburner, and the study, with fitted desk furniture and second staircase to the first floor, leads off it. The split-level kitchen/breakfast room is well planned, full of character and has a separate utility room. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, a family bathroom and a shower room. Keats, 01428 661622, www.keats.biz.

07 NORTON, SUFFOLK PRICE: £325,000

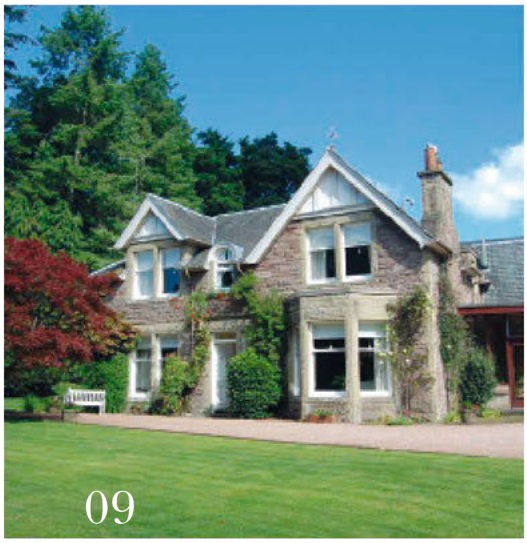
Vine Cottage is a two-bedroom detached property with an attractive flint exterior. It has been tastefully refurbished throughout by the current owner and offers a sitting room with exposed timbers and French doors onto the garden. The galley kitchen is triple aspect with white cabinetry and a tiled floor. Upstairs there are two bedrooms, a bathroom and a wide landing with space for a study area. David Burr, 01359 245245, www.davidburr.co.uk.

08 MAGDALEN LAVER, ESSEX PRICE: £899,995

Wynters Cottage is a Grade II-listed timber-framed former medieval hall house, surrounded by bridle paths and fields. The cottage has been restored over the years and comprises a spacious reception hallway, study, sitting room with inglenook fireplace, formal dining room with vaulted ceiling and a farmhouse kitchen/breakfast room with adjoining utility room and boot room. The first floor, accessed by two staircases, has four bedrooms including a master bedroom with adjoining dressing room, a family bathroom and a shower room. Outside there's a stable block which, subject to planning consent, could be converted into annexe accommodation. Mullucks Wells, 01992 560560, www.mullucks.co.uk.

A simply enchanting listed cottage that combines original period details with modern family living

Rose Cottage, property 6













09 AUCHTERARDER, PERTHSHIRE
PRICE: £645,000+

Dunedin is a stone villa dating back to the early 1900s. With its large kitchen/diner, complete with Aga and utility room, and a formal dining room opposite, it offers great entertaining space. Upstairs there are five bedrooms, including a master bedroom with an en-suite bathroom and dressing room, an attractive guest bedroom with en suite and a large family bathroom. The house also comes with a triple garage. CKD Galbraith, 01738 451111, www.ckdgalbraith.co.uk.

10 ESHER, SURREY
PRICE: £795,000

This extended weatherboarded cottage has bundles of period charm and style. The sitting room has tongue-and-groove panelling, original beams and a fireplace with woodburner. The large open-plan family space with oak flooring and original exposed beams has a country-style kitchen/breakfast area and a snug. The first floor comprises three bedrooms, one of which is en suite. John D Wood & Co, 01372 462211, www.johndwood.co.uk.

11 BROUGHTON, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
PRICE: £1,100,000

Old Manor Farm is a five-bedroom Grade II-listed moated farmhouse near Aylesbury, set in around 2.2 acres. The late-15th-century former hall house has a wealth of period features including exposed beams, bread oven and an inglenook fireplace. Downstairs there's a kitchen/breakfast room with adjoining studio and utility room, sitting room, drawing room, dining room and study. Outside there's a paved dining terrace overlooking a pond, complete with a moat and a wooden bridge that crosses to an area of woodland. John D Wood & Co, 01865 311522, www.johndwood.co.uk.

A well-presented Victorian home situated within walking distance of the market town of Ramsey

The Old Manse, property 14

12 COLDINGHAM, BERWICKSHIRE
PRICE: £435,000

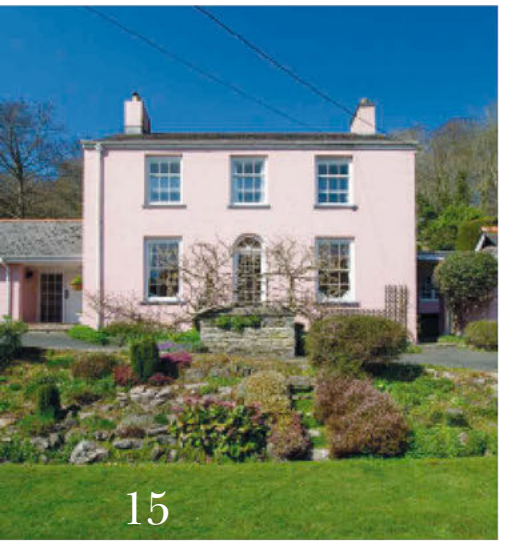
With a central village location, St Andrews Wells was built in 1690 and is located about two miles from the coast. The ground floor has a central hallway, dual-aspect drawing room, family sitting room with open fire, and a kitchen with walk-in pantry and utility room. A central staircase leads to a first floor landing and five double bedrooms. Outside there is a range of outbuildings. Smiths Gore, 01289 333030, www.smithsgore.co.uk.

13 BRIGHTLING, EAST SUSSEX
PRICE: £750,000

Wealden House is an elegant property dating back to 1650, located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There are three reception rooms, including a large dining hall with inglenook fireplace and wood-burning stove, a sitting room and a study. Steps lead from the dining hall to a kitchen/breakfast room fitted with a handmade Mark Wilkinson kitchen. Upstairs there are three bedrooms, a family bathroom and a large second-floor attic room, which is currently used as an additional bedroom. Pretty gardens surround the property and there's a detached garage. Freeman Forman, 01892 599809, www.freemanforman.co.uk.

14 RAMSEY, CAMBRIDGESHIRE
PRICE: £430,000

The Old Manse is a Victorian home situated within walking distance of the town. It sits behind wrought-iron railings and has five bedrooms, three reception rooms and a conservatory. The dining room and kitchen are linked via an archway and there's a utility room and study downstairs. Upstairs there are five bedrooms, a studio with vaulted ceiling and a family bathroom. A drive to the side of the property provides access to a tandem garage. Fine & Country, 0845 603 2825, www.fineandcountry.com.


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15 NOSS MAYO, DEVON
PRICE: £750,000

Coombe Farm House is a detached Georgian-style property that offers the chance to create additional accommodation by incorporating the garage. Downstairs there's a sitting room with original shutters, a dining room and a kitchen/breakfast room. Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a family bathroom. Marchand Petit, 01752 873311, www.marchandpetit.co.uk.

16 EAST FARLEIGH, KENT
PRICE: £599,950

If you're looking for something that offers scope for improvement, Thatchers could be the place. It's Grade II-listed and dates back to the 15th century, and offers a dining room with a heavily beamed ceiling and living room with inglenook and French doors. On the first floor are four bedrooms, one with an adjoining dressing room/study, and a family bathroom. Geering & Colyer, 01622 619380, www.geeringandcolyer.co.uk.

17 CHIDEOCK, DORSET
PRICE: £720,000

Chimneys is one of the oldest 16th-century Grade II-listed properties in the village. Original period features have been carefully preserved and the property has been sympathetically renovated. There are three reception rooms and four double bedrooms, two of which are en suite. The property comes with a self-contained, one-bedroom apartment with double garage below, which is currently rented out as a holiday let. Fortnam Smith & Banwell, 01297 560945, www.propertysharingexperts.com.

18 SOUTH LITTLETON, WORCESTER-SHIRE PRICE: £425,000

Goodwins House is a stone-built cottage with a wealth of character. Downstairs you will find a sitting room with beamed ceiling, stone flagged floor and stone fireplace with logburner, and a second reception room with an open fireplace. The kitchen is fitted with bespoke units and opens into a dining area. Beyond the kitchen is a utility room. On the first floor there are two double bedrooms and a family bathroom, while the second floor is made up of three interconnecting attic rooms with a double bedroom at the far end. The gardens are a particular feature of the property and there's a large wooden workshop and gated parking area. RA Bennett & Partners, 01386 388062, www.rabennett.co.uk.

19 CARLISLE, CUMBRIA
PRICE: £500,000

Tuethur is a Grade II-listed property designed by Sir Robert Lorimer. The pièce de résistance is a spectacular barrel-vaulted first-floor drawing room with cherry wood panelling and an ornate plaster ceiling. There are also two double bedrooms and a bathroom on this floor. On the ground floor is the sitting room, living room, dining room, double bedroom and a bathroom. The modern fitted kitchen has granite worktops and a utility area. Smiths Gore, 01228 635862, www.smithsgore.co.uk.

20 HARROGATE, NORTH YORKSHIRE
PRICE: £700,000

The former Grove Road Sunday School is now a beautifully converted Grade II-listed townhouse with courtyard garden. The spacious property is spread over three floors, and includes a vast living room with original full-height arched stained-glass windows, which leads through to a formal dining area and a further reception room that's perfect for an office. Upstairs there are three double bedrooms, including a master en suite, and a bathroom. Strutt & Parker, 01423 594851, www.struttandparker.com.

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Email the details, plus a high-resolution image (300dpi) of the exterior to **phi.ed@kelsey.co.uk**. If your home is suitable for inclusion in the property section, a fee of £60 for subscribers, and £100 for non-subscribers, will be charged. Make your cheque payable to *Period Homes & Interiors* magazine (including subscription number if applicable) and send to On the Market, *Period Homes & Interiors*, Kelsey Media, Cudham Tithe Barn, Berry's Hill, Cudham, Kent TN16 3AG. We work three months in advance and properties are chosen at the Editor's discretion.

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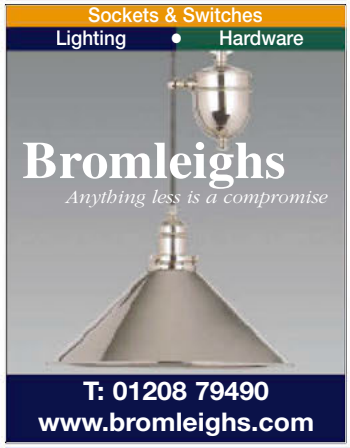


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Off the block

We meet Hannah Watchorn, a textile designer specialising in traditional block-printing techniques

How did you get into what you do? After working for fabric houses and several homes and interiors publications, I gained valuable experience and a growing passion to create my own textiles collection. I was excited by the prospect of designing for print and how this could be applied to almost anything.

Have you always been interested in designing and making? Yes. From a young age I was artistic and always really creative. I studied illustration and started to take on freelance work. I was very experimental in my techniques, especially with textiles, so this is really a combination of everything I enjoy.

What was the first piece you ever made? I think it was a bag made from old denim jeans and I hand-printed fabric for the pockets.

What inspires your designs? As a child, growing up on a farm, I was influenced by the rural charms of the country, which continues to capture my imagination for new designs. Inspiration also comes from the intricate patterns found on antique textiles and ceramics from all over the world.

'It's so important to be passionate and positive about what you do, as this encourages you to stick at it'

How does the making process work? I start by experimenting with simple ideas, and testing colour combinations. I paint soft backgrounds on Chinese rice paper. The image is hand-carved into lino block and then it is ready to print with. I use this technique for its authentic printed edge and handcrafted finish.

Where do you source your materials? I source my materials through different suppliers to suit the kind of print method I am using. Some cloths are from the UK, while cottons for my block-printed items come from India.

Do you enjoy working for yourself? I love the freedom and excitement of working for myself but it comes with its own set of challenges, which simply serve to give me experience.

What's the most important thing you've learnt? To source reliable and trusted suppliers and to ensure you have a supportive network of people around you. It's so important to be passionate and positive about what you do as this encourages you to stick at it.

What's next for your business? I would love to expand my product range into different household accessories, including bedding, ceramics and garden accessories. I intend to visit Jaipur in the next year to develop new designs and, most importantly, capture a loyal audience who will enjoy my designs.







Clockwise from top left Hannah takes inspiration from her rural upbringing; Vintage Cutlery tea towel in Slate Grey, £10; set of four Daisy napkins, £16; Indian Seed fabric in French Grey.

FEATURE JAMES GODFREY **PHOTOGRAPHY** FRESH PHOTO HOUSE; DOMINIQUE WHITE

You can shop online for Hannah's hand-printed textiles and accessories at www.wealdenfairs.com/hannahwatchorn

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